

The Role of Scout Extracurricular Activities on the Formation of Student Leadership Character at Boarding School

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to determine the role of extracurricular scouting in the formation of student leadership character at the Darul Muttaqien Islamic Boarding School. The research approach used is qualitative, with a focus on an in-depth understanding of the experiences and perceptions of students involved in scouting activities at Islamic boarding schools. This research method uses questionnaires, participant observation, and document analysis as data collection tools. Data was collected using a questionnaire from 56 Darul Muttaqien Islamic Boarding School student respondents using a purposive sampling technique, then the data was analyzed using David Kolb's Learning Inventory theory. The results of this research show that scouting extracurriculars plays a very important role in shaping students' leadership character. Students who are actively involved in scouting tend to be able to develop courageous leadership skills, responsibility, and cooperation. These findings provide valuable insight for other schools to develop student leadership character in more effective scouting extracurricular programs.

Keywords: Education, Character, Leadership, Scouts

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk Mengetahui peran ekstrakurikuler kepramukaan terhadap pembentukan karakter kepemimpinan siswa di Pesantren Darul Muttaqien. Pendekatan penelitian yang digunakan adalah kualitatif, dengan fokus pada pemahaman mendalam tentang pengalaman dan persepsi siswa yang terlibat dalam kegiatan kepramukaan di pesantren. Metode penelitian ini adalah kuesioner, observasi partisipatif, dan analisis dokumen sebagai alat pengumpulan data. Data yang dikumpulkan menggunakan kuesioner terhadap 56 responden siswa Pesantren Darul Muttaqien melalui teknik purposive sampling, kemudian data dianalisis dengan menggunakan teori Learning Inventory David Kolb. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan ekstrakurikuler kepramukaan sangat berperan dalam membentuk karakter kepemimpinan siswa. Siswa yang terlibat aktif dalam kepramukaan cenderung mampu mengembangkan keterampilan kepemimpinan yang berani, tanggung jawab, dan kerja sama. Temuan ini memberikan wawasan berharga bagi sekolah lain untuk pengembangan karakter kepemimpinan siswa pada program ekstrakurikuler kepramukaan yang lebih efektif.

Kata Kunci: Pendidikan, Karakter, Kepemimpinan, Pramuka

INTRODUCTION

The importance of leadership character for students, especially those attending boarding schools, is crucial for personal development and readiness to face life's challenges. Leadership is not just about the ability to give directions but also involves integrity, empathy, and effective communication skills (Achdiat et al., 2021). In a boarding school setting, students are often confronted with various situations and tasks that require teamwork, decision-making, and responsibility (Rozi & Hasanah, 2021). A good leader in this context can inspire classmates,

build strong relationships, and manage conflicts wisely. By developing leadership character, students will not only be prepared for academic challenges but also capable of shaping a positive and supportive boarding environment, creating an optimal learning atmosphere for their personal and academic development (Muktamar & Pinto, 2023; Narang, 2023).

Additionally, leadership character also helps students in boarding schools develop self-organization and time management skills. A good leader tends to have the ability to plan and execute tasks efficiently, which is essential in the daily routines of a boarding environment (Muhammad & Wahid, 2023). They learn to overcome challenges, collaborate in group projects, and become reliable figures for their classmates.

Leadership character also has a positive impact on the formation of students' moral character. Responsible and fair leaders set a positive example for others. Students learn to appreciate diversity, respect others' opinions, and take the initiative to voice constructive ideas (Olifiansyah et al., 2020). All of these contribute to shaping resilient individuals with integrity, ready to face life's challenges in the future. Thus, leadership character is not only important for personal development but also significantly contributes to creating a healthy and positive learning environment in boarding schools (Nashihin, 2017). Through the development of leadership character, students are expected to become individuals capable of bringing positive changes not only for themselves but also for the communities around them.

Based on previous literature and research, students attending boarding schools tend to face unique challenges in developing leadership character. The boarding environment provides opportunities for them to learn to collaborate in daily life, overcome conflicts, and take initiative in specific situations (Fatmawati et al., 2020; Katon et al., 2020; Saugi et al., 2022; Sulaiman, 2016). Some studies also suggest that active participation in boarding activities, such as dormitory management or study groups, can enhance leadership skills (Pamungkas, 2018; Rambe, 2023; Upang et al., 2022). In education news and coverage, the positive role of student leaders in building an inclusive and harmonious community in boarding schools is sometimes highlighted. Observations may also reflect various leadership styles emerging among students, ranging from proactive to more collaborative approaches.

Initial observations of the role of scouting extracurricular activities at Darul Muttaqien Islamic Boarding School paint a positive picture regarding the formation of students' leadership character. It is evident that scouting activities are not merely additional tasks but an effective means of shaping personality and leadership skills. Students actively engage in various scouting activities, such as camping, outdoor events, and leadership training. Through scouting, students at Darul Muttaqien Islamic Boarding School can develop leadership values such as responsibility, cooperation, and initiative. Educators and mentors seem to play a key role in providing guidance and mentoring students in facing challenges and experiences they may encounter during scouting activities. Although these observations are preliminary, further research may be needed to gain a deeper understanding of the impact of scouting extracurricular activities on the formation of students' leadership character at Darul Muttaqien Islamic Boarding School. Nevertheless, initial impressions suggest that scouting plays a significant role in supporting the vision of character education at the Islamic Boarding School.

Research on the role of scouting extracurricular activities in shaping the leadership character of students at Darul Muttaqien Islamic Boarding School has its uniqueness when compared to previous studies. In this context, its uniqueness can be seen in its specific focus on the Islamic Boarding School environment, where religious and Islamic education elements

are crucial in character development. Previous research may have been more general or not specifically focused on the Islamic Boarding School context. Furthermore, the novelty of this research lies in the use of quantitative methods, particularly the use of questionnaires. The quantitative approach provides a measurable and calculable analytical dimension, offering a more accurate and statistical overview of the impact of scouting on the formation of students' leadership character. Most previous studies may have been qualitative, relying on interviews, group discussions, or observations without integrating a more systematic quantitative approach.

The diversity of research findings can provide additional insights into how scouting can significantly play a role in the Islamic Boarding School context, particularly in shaping the leadership character of students. Thus, this research at Darul Muttaqien Islamic Boarding School not only deepens our understanding of the impact of scouting extracurricular activities but also fills a knowledge gap with a specific focus on the Islamic education environment.

METHODS OF RESEARCH

The research employed a quantitative descriptive method, utilizing questionnaires, participative observation, and document analysis as data collection tools. The study took place at Darul Muttaqien Islamic Boarding School on December 21, 2023. Data was gathered through a questionnaire administered to 56 student respondents from Darul Muttaqien Islamic Boarding School, employing purposive sampling techniques. Subsequently, the collected data was analyzed using David Kolb's Learning Inventory theory. The research instrument comprised 30 questions related to leadership elements, with 10 questions addressing pre-leadership responsibilities, another 10 focusing on courage, and the remaining 10 centered on collaboration. This corresponds to David Kolb's assertion that the Learning Inventory is a method for forming a learning cycle.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the findings of this research, it was discovered that scout extracurricular activities play a crucial role in shaping leadership character. This study breaks down these aspects into three main parts, namely responsibility, courage, and collaboration. One of the methods used is to train students' willingness to accept sanctions if they make mistakes during scout activities. Additionally, students are encouraged to participate in night shouting activities to test their level of courage. Through these activities, they can enhance their communication skills with others. The detailed results of this research can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1 Percentage of Interview Results

Komponen Kepemimpinan	Indikator	Presentase
Bertanggung Jawab	Siap diberi sanksi jika melakukan kesalahan	90 %
Keberanian	Mengikuti kegiatan jerit malam	95 %
Bekerja Sama	Meningkatkan kemampuan dalam berkomunikasi	90 %

Based on Table 1, data from 56 respondents, the research results indicate that the most dominant component of leadership is courage, with a percentage of around 95% or about 53 respondents. Furthermore, in further research, the components of responsible and collaborative leadership have the same percentage, approximately 90%, or about 50

respondents. This suggests that the role of shaping leadership through scout extracurricular activities at Darul Muttaqien Boarding School has a significant impact. Both components are highly rated, indicating that students participating in scout activities tend to have strong attitudes of responsibility, courage, and collaboration, positively influencing the formation of their character.

In Darul Muttaqien Boarding School, scout activities are a mandatory extracurricular for all students. Scouting receives special attention and is considered a prestigious activity, involving all educators and even the Kyai actively participating in scout activities. Scout activities are held every Thursday, starting after Dhuhr until 5 pm. During this time, students learn various scout skills such as Semaphore, Pioneering, Morse Code, and various team collaboration activities such as LKBB and Yelling. The dynamics of scouting in the boarding school are not limited to mandatory scout times but also include events such as competitions, camps, art performances, and creative shows by the students.

Scouting at Darul Muttaqien Boarding School has significant differences compared to scouting outside the boarding school. In addition to learning scout knowledge and techniques, scout activities at the boarding school provide a broader experience, including leadership skills. Competitions and camps lasting for 4-5 days involve more than 50 to 70 competitions in various fields of knowledge. Furthermore, training and inauguration events at the boarding school support the smooth functioning of the scout organization's structure. Students not only learn discipline and scout techniques but also develop leadership, guide their fellow comrades, and train courage. All of these are valuable experiences for the students participating in scout activities at Darul Muttaqien Boarding School.

Relevant research support for the role of scout extracurricular activities in shaping the leadership character of students at Darul Muttaqien Boarding School can be found in various literature and leadership theories. Previous studies indicate that extracurricular activities, especially scouting, positively contribute to the development of personality and leadership skills (Agustina et al., 2023; Fadiyatunnisa & Heriannngtyas, 2023; Kurniawan et al., 2021). One theory supporting the research findings is David Kolb's Experiential Learning Theory. Kolb states that effective learning occurs through a learning cycle involving concrete experience, reflection, abstract conceptualization, and testing concepts in real situations (Kolb, 2014). In the context of scout extracurricular activities, students not only gain theoretical knowledge about leadership but also experience and apply it in real situations, such as in competitions and camps (Pratiwi et al., 2020). Additionally, the transformational leadership theory can be linked to the role of scout activities in character formation. This theory emphasizes the development of a shared vision, motivation, and the positive influence of leaders on subordinates (Kuswaeri, 2017). Through scout activities involving collaboration, problem-solving, and improved interpersonal skills, students can develop qualities of transformational leadership, such as inspiration and motivation of others.

Empirical research support can also be found in studies identifying the positive impact of scouting on the development of student characters. Some studies state that scouting activities can enhance students' sense of responsibility, courage, as well as cooperation and leadership skills (Hidayati, 2021; Rozi & Hasanah, 2021). Therefore, through the integration of leadership theories and relevant research findings, it can be explained that scout extracurricular activities at Darul Muttaqien Boarding School play a crucial role in shaping the leadership character of students. Direct experiences in scout activities help students develop

leadership skills and positive attitudes that shape their character to become resilient and responsible leaders (Nisa et al., 2023; Ristiyani & Asmawan, 2023).

Theories of developmental psychology can also support understanding how scout extracurricular activities influence the character development of students. According to Lawrence Kohlberg's moral development theory, practical experiences and active participation in extracurricular activities can accelerate students' moral development (Kohlberg & Hersh, 1977). Scouting, with values such as honesty, responsibility, and mutual cooperation, can form a solid moral foundation in students (Ameliasari, 2022). In addition to these theories, support from the boarding school, educators, and scout activity managers also plays a crucial role. Their involvement in providing guidance, moral support, and mentoring to students participating in scout activities can strengthen the positive impact of these activities on leadership character formation. Finally, understanding the context of the boarding school as an Islamic educational institution adds an important dimension to the analysis. Scouting integrated with Islamic values can serve as a platform for leadership formation in line with Islamic moral and ethical values (Hariadi et al., 2023; Hidayatulloh, 2016). This creates leaders who not only possess good leadership skills but are also based on strong religious and moral values.

Overall, by involving various leadership theories, empirical research, and support from various relevant parties, it can be understood that the role of scout extracurricular activities at Darul Muttaqien Boarding School is not merely an additional activity but an effective means of shaping the leadership character of students in a holistic manner.

CONCLUSION

The scout extracurricular activities play a crucial role in shaping the leadership character of students at Darul Muttaqien Boarding School. This research breaks down these aspects into responsibility, courage, and collaboration, with courage being the most dominant component. The results indicate that students actively involved in scout activities tend to have strong attitudes of responsibility, courage, and collaboration, positively impacting the formation of their character. Scout activities at this boarding school are not only an obligation for all students but are also considered prestigious, involving all teaching staff and even Kyai. By involving various leadership theories, empirical research, and support from relevant parties, it can be concluded that scout extracurricular activities at Darul Muttaqien Boarding School are not merely an additional activity but an effective means of shaping the leadership character of students in a holistic manner.

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