



The Impact of Youth Red Cross Extracurricular Activities on Humanitarian Attitudes of Students at MTsN 1 Nganjuk

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Abstract

The objectives of this study were, To describe the Youth Red Cross extracurricular activities at MTsN 1 Nganjuk, To assess the current state of humanitarian attitudes among the students, To determine the influence of the Youth Red Cross extracurricular activities on the students' humanitarian attitudes. The research employed a correlational quantitative method with a hypothesis-driven approach. The population consisted of 7th and 8th-grade students who were members of the Youth Red Cross. The research variables were the Youth Red Cross extracurricular activities (independent variable, X) and students' humanitarian attitudes (dependent variable, Y). Data collection techniques included observation, interviews, questionnaires, and documentation. The data were analyzed using Karl Pearson's Product-Moment correlation formula. The findings indicated that the Youth Red Cross extracurricular activities have been effectively implemented and have shown considerable development, as evidenced by the high number of participants and the achievements earned, there has been a significant decline in the humanitarian attitudes of students, primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the influence of social media, the Youth Red Cross extracurricular activities have a significant impact on the humanitarian attitudes of students at MTsN 1 Nganjuk, as demonstrated by the correlation coefficient ($r = 0.817$), indicating a strong positive influence.

Keywords: Influence, Youth Red Cross, Human Attitude



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INTRODUCTION

Islamic education serves as a crucial tool in the preservation of students' character and morals, aligning them with cultural values and the principles of Pancasila. The fundamental goal of Islamic education is to cultivate a personality that reflects Islamic values, thereby shaping individuals who are not only physically healthy and mentally stable but also morally exemplary and strong in character (Nurlaila, 2018).



One effective method of implementing Islamic education is through character education. Character education can be integrated into the curriculum through various means, including the inclusion of extracurricular programs. Schools can embed character education within the teaching-learning process or infuse it into student development activities, such as the extracurricular program of the Youth Red Cross (Palang Merah Remaja, PMR). The Youth Red Cross aims to instill values of social concern, cooperation, and responsibility, which are foundational to character building (Faradila et al., 2020).

The Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia, PMI) is the parent organization of the Youth Red Cross, providing a platform for volunteer activities at both primary and secondary school levels. As a humanitarian organization, the Youth Red Cross assists the government and the community, with its members committed to working with diverse groups to carry out humanitarian tasks (Prahesty & Suwanda, 2016). Membership in the Youth Red Cross is open to all young people, but from its inception in Indonesia, it has been established and formalized within schools, which are a continuous source of volunteers (Prahesty & Suwanda, 2016).

The benefits of participation in the Youth Red Cross include fostering a sense of humanity among its members, encouraging high levels of compassion from an early age, promoting independence and responsibility, providing opportunities to form new friendships, enhancing teamwork skills, offering a platform for learning time management, and teaching healthy lifestyle practices (SMA Dwiwarna, 2021).

In life, humanity is a vital element. Islamic teachings require every follower to possess a high degree of compassion to achieve a harmonious life. Compassion motivates individuals to help others, thereby alleviating the burdens of their peers. When Muslims embody this high level of compassion, the mission of Islam as a religion of mercy for all creation (*rahmatan lil'alam*) can be realized.

Recently, there has been a noticeable decline in the humanitarian attitudes of students. Many students display a lack of concern for their peers, a trend attributed largely to the influence of social media. As a result, many students fail to respect the rights of others, neglecting the humanitarian values taught in Islamic education and citizenship education classes. However, among these students, those involved in the Youth Red Cross demonstrate a strong concern for their peers. This observation prompted the author to conduct research on the influence of the Youth Red Cross extracurricular program on students' humanitarian attitudes.

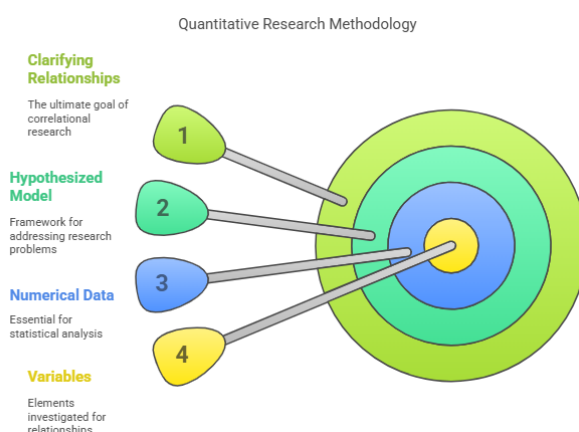
MTsN 1 Nganjuk was selected as the research site due to the active participation of its Youth Red Cross program in various humanitarian activities within the school environment. This is evidenced by regular training sessions every Sunday after school, the presence of Youth Red Cross members who assist during flag ceremonies by helping students who faint, and the existence of a daily UKS (School Health Unit) duty roster.



METHOD

This study employs a quantitative correlational approach, which involves the collection and statistical analysis of numerical data to investigate the relationship between two variables: the independent variable and the dependent variable. Quantitative research is a scientific method that examines a problem by analyzing the potential relationships among variables within a specific context (Irawan & Yaniawati, 2017). The term "quantitative method" is used because the research data is in the form of numbers and statistics, which are essential for the analysis (Sugiyono, 2017).

The primary goal of quantitative research is to provide explanations regarding the significance of a hypothesized model in addressing the formulated research problem. Correlational research, specifically, aims to clarify the relationships between one variable and another (Sukmadinata, 2017).



Gambar 1: *Quantitative Research Methodology*

Population and Sample

Population is a generalized area consisting of objects or subjects with specific characteristics that are studied to draw conclusions. (Margono 2017) defines the population as all data that become the focus of the researcher within a particular time and place. (Sukandarrumidi 2017) further explains that the population includes all subjects of a study, whether real, abstract, events, or phenomena, which serve as sources of information and share certain characteristics. In this research, the population consists of students in grades 7 and 8 who are members of the Youth Red Cross extracurricular program at MTsN 1 Nganjuk.

A sample is a portion of the population that shares the same characteristics as the object representing the data source (Arikunto, 2018). If the population size is large and cannot be entirely studied due to limited resources, the researcher may



use a sample drawn from that population (Arikunto, 2018). According to Arikunto (2018), if the number of subjects is less than 100, the entire population is taken as the sample, making the study a population study. However, if the number exceeds 100, a sample of 10% to 25% or more may be taken. Thus, in this study, the sample consists of all students in grades 7 and 8 who are members of the Youth Red Cross extracurricular program at MTsN 1.

Research Variables

Research variables are attributes, characteristics, or values of a person, object, or activity that show variations selected by the researcher for study and conclusion (Sugiyono, 2017). This research involves two variables Independent Variable and Dependent Variable.

Research Instrument

The research instrument, or measurement tool, is used to assess the phenomena being studied (Sugiyono, 2017). In this study, a questionnaire was used as the instrument, containing several questions that the respondents must answer. The questionnaire is in the form of multiple-choice questions with four possible answers. There are two types of questions in this research instrument: favorable and unfavorable. Favorable questions reflect positive aspects of the attitude object, while unfavorable questions reflect negative aspects or non-supportive views of the attitude object (Samsudin, 2018).

Data Collection Techniques

Observation Method: Observation involves the systematic recording of events, behaviors, and artifacts in the social setting chosen for study (Sukmadinata, 2017). Observation is a key technique in data collection, differing from questionnaires and interviews in that it can involve non-human subjects. Observation can be either participatory or non-participatory. In participatory observation, the researcher is involved in the activity being observed, while in non-participatory observation, the researcher remains an observer (Sugiyono, 2017). This technique is used when the research involves human behavior, work processes, or natural phenomena, and when the scope of observation is not extensive. In this study, observations were made on the condition of the school, the Youth Red Cross extracurricular activities, and the humanitarian attitudes of the students at MTsN 1 Nganjuk.

Interview Method: Interviews are verbal question-and-answer interactions between two or more individuals, conducted face-to-face, where one party listens to and observes the other (Sukmadinata, 2017). In this study, interviews were conducted with the vice-principal for student affairs, the Youth Red Cross



extracurricular advisors, teachers, and three students who are members of the Youth Red Cross.

Questionnaire Method: A questionnaire, or self-administered questionnaire, is a data collection technique where respondents are given a list of questions to fill out (Sugiyono, 2017). In this study, the questionnaire was used to assess the influence of the Youth Red Cross extracurricular program on the humanitarian attitudes of the students at MTsN 1 Nganjuk.

Documentation Method: Documentation involves collecting and analyzing documents, whether written, electronic, or visual (Sukmadinata, 2017). In this study, the documents used include the profile of MTsN 1 Nganjuk, which consists of the school's history, vision and mission, human resources, and infrastructure. Additionally, documents related to the Youth Red Cross extracurricular activities at MTsN 1 Nganjuk were also reviewed.

Data Analysis Techniques

After collecting the data, the next step is to analyze it according to the appropriate methods to interpret the findings. To determine the impact of the Youth Red Cross extracurricular program on humanitarian attitudes, the data were analyzed using the Pearson product-moment correlation formula. The Pearson correlation technique measures the degree of relationship between two variables by multiplying the moments of the two variables (Subana & Rahadi, 2018).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After collecting all the data, the next step involves processing the data to examine the research findings. The following sections present the findings based on interviews, documentation, observations, and responses from the distributed questionnaires. The discussion of these findings is as follows:

Youth Red Cross Extracurricular Activities

Based on observations, interviews, and documentation, the Youth Red Cross extracurricular activities at MTsN 1 Nganjuk have shown significant development. This is evidenced by the large number of members, the achievements attained, and the various activities conducted by the Youth Red Cross at MTsN 1 Nganjuk. The Youth Red Cross has 117 members, including 66 students from grade 7, 22 students from grade 8, and 33 students from grade 9. However, it should be noted that the grade 9 members were no longer active during the research period as they were focused on preparing for their final exams (Samsudin, 2018).



The activities of the Youth Red Cross are coordinated by an organizational committee, which includes a chairperson, secretary, and treasurer. The training sessions for the Youth Red Cross at MTsN 1 Nganjuk are conducted every two weeks on Sundays after school. The educational approach prioritizes practical training, as students tend to understand the material better through hands-on practice, which also facilitates easier application in daily life (Irawan & Yaniawati, 2017). The extracurricular activities are designed to be enjoyable, and any elements of seniority have been eliminated, ensuring a comfortable environment where students can truly grasp the principles of the Youth Red Cross (Sukmadinata, 2017).

New member recruitment is conducted annually at the beginning of the academic year, usually in August. The recruitment process begins with an introduction to the Youth Red Cross through orations or presentations during the orientation period for new students. Following the introduction, the Youth Red Cross opens registration for new members and conducts orientation sessions. These sessions, which are essential for new members to learn the basic principles of the Red Cross, are conducted in collaboration with the Nganjuk District PMI (Indonesian Red Cross). The instructors, certified by either the district, provincial, or national PMI, are appointed by the Nganjuk District PMI. After completing the orientation, new members are added to the PMI central database and receive a Youth Red Cross membership card (Arikunto, 2018).

In line with the fundamental principles of the Red Cross, particularly the principle of humanity, the Youth Red Cross engages in activities that foster humanitarian values. These activities include scheduling shifts for the School Health Unit (UKS), assisting during flag ceremonies by helping students who are unwell, and raising funds to aid disaster victims. Such activities are integral in cultivating the compassion of Youth Red Cross members, aligning with the humanitarian principles of the Red Cross (Sugiyono, 2017).

These accomplishments demonstrate that the Youth Red Cross at MTsN 1 Nganjuk is functioning and developing well. The organization effectively instills the fundamental principles of the Red Cross, with its members reflecting these values in their attitudes and actions. The extracurricular group's achievements at the district level are commendable, showcasing the success of their programs.

Humanitarian Attitudes of MTsN 1 Nganjuk Students

Interviews with teachers and the vice-principal for student affairs, along with observations conducted from May 13, 2023, to June 8, 2023, revealed that the humanitarian attitudes of MTsN 1 Nganjuk students have significantly declined. According to the vice-principal for student affairs, there has been a noticeable



decrease in students' humanitarian attitudes in recent years, largely attributed to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The shift to online learning reduced students' social interactions, leading to a decline in their empathy and concern for others. Additionally, excessive use of mobile phones has further affected students' behavior and attitudes (Subana & Rahadi, 2018).

The teachers' feedback echoed similar concerns, noting that students' empathy towards their peers has diminished compared to pre-pandemic levels. The impact of online learning and uncontrolled mobile phone use has weakened students' social instincts, making them less respectful and less considerate towards their classmates (Sukmadinata, 2017).

The vice-principal emphasized the critical need for extracurricular activities that nurture students' humanitarian attitudes, as students in the current era tend to prefer hands-on, outdoor activities. Such practical experiences are difficult to achieve in the traditional classroom setting, where the focus is primarily on subject matter instruction. Therefore, fostering empathy among students can be better achieved through maximizing participation in extracurricular activities like the Youth Red Cross (Irawan & Yaniawati, 2017).

From the observations and interviews, it can be concluded that the humanitarian attitudes of MTsN 1 Nganjuk students have significantly declined, primarily due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting shift to online learning, which reduced students' social interactions and empathy (Sugiyono, 2017).

Impact of Youth Red Cross Extracurricular Activities on Students' Humanitarian Attitudes at MTsN 1 Nganjuk in the 2022/2023 Academic Year

Interviews with the vice-principal for student affairs, the Youth Red Cross advisors, teachers, and several Youth Red Cross members, combined with observations, indicated that the Youth Red Cross extracurricular activities have a significant impact on students' humanitarian attitudes. This conclusion is supported by the observed differences in behavior, particularly in humanitarian attitudes, between students who participate in the Youth Red Cross and those who do not (Arikunto, 2018).

During the observation period from May 27, 2023, to June 5, 2023, students involved in the Youth Red Cross demonstrated greater concern for their peers. For example, they were more likely to help a sick classmate by taking them to the School Health Unit (UKS) for first aid, assist peers in need, and contribute to disaster relief efforts by donating part of their pocket money (Sukmadinata, 2017).



Interviews with Youth Red Cross members confirmed that participation in the program significantly influences their humanitarian attitudes. The activities conducted during the Youth Red Cross sessions effectively cultivate students' empathy and compassion. According to the interviewed students, the Youth Red Cross extracurricular program has a more than 75% impact on their humanitarian attitudes (Irawan & Yaniawati, 2017).

To quantify the influence of the Youth Red Cross on students' humanitarian attitudes, questionnaires were distributed to students in grades 7 and 8 who are members of the Youth Red Cross. Grade 9 students were excluded as they were no longer active in school. The collected data were then analyzed using the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation formula. The strength of the correlation between variables was determined using the Pearson Product-Moment interpretation table. The correlation index for this study was denoted as "xy" (Subana & Rahadi, 2018).

After calculating the correlation coefficient, it was found to be 0.817, indicating a strong positive relationship between the Youth Red Cross extracurricular activities and students' humanitarian attitudes. The significance of this influence was confirmed by consulting the r-value table for $N = 88$, which provided the following significance levels:

- Significance level of 5% = 0.213
- Significance level of 1% = 0.278

The decision rule is that if the calculated r-value (r) is greater than or equal to the table value, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis (H_a) is accepted, indicating a significant influence. Conversely, if r is less than the table value, H_0 is accepted, and H_a is rejected, indicating no significant influence (Sugiyono, 2017).

Based on the correlation value obtained (0.817), which is within the 0.80 – 1.00 range, it was concluded that the Youth Red Cross extracurricular activities at MTsN 1 Nganjuk have a very strong influence on students' humanitarian attitudes.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data and the analysis presented in the previous chapters, along with the methods and techniques employed, supported by data from observations and interviews, the following conclusions can be drawn from this study, The Youth Red Cross extracurricular program at MTsN 1 Nganjuk has demonstrated significant development. The fundamental principles of the Red Cross movement have been effectively implemented through regular practices, which have led to the members embodying these principles in their behaviors. The program's achievements at the



district level are also noteworthy, as evidenced by several awards in various district-level competitions. The program has an active membership of 117 students, with 66 students from grade 7, 22 from grade 8, and 33 from grade 9, supported by two advisors. There has been a significant decline in the humanitarian attitudes of students at MTsN 1 Nganjuk. This decline is largely attributed to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which necessitated online learning. The shift to online education reduced social interactions among students, leading to a decrease in empathy and humanitarian attitudes. Additionally, uncontrolled use of mobile phones, influenced by social media content, has further contributed to this decline in humanitarian attitudes. The Youth Red Cross extracurricular program has a significant impact on the humanitarian attitudes of students. This is evidenced by the differences in behavior, particularly in humanitarian attitudes, between students who participate in the Youth Red Cross and those who do not. Members of the Youth Red Cross voluntarily organize shifts to assist in the School Health Unit (UKS), help fellow students during flag ceremonies, and raise funds during natural disasters.

Statistical analysis using the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation revealed a correlation coefficient of 0.817, which is greater than the critical r-value, indicating a strong positive relationship between participation in the Youth Red Cross and the development of humanitarian attitudes among students. This strong positive correlation, as interpreted from the r-value, confirms that participation in the Youth Red Cross significantly enhances the humanitarian attitudes of students at MTsN 1 Nganjuk.

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