

The Role of Karang Taruna in Fostering the Religious Potential of School-Age Children: A Case Study in Banjarbaru

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Abstract

This study examines the challenges of developing the religious potential of school-age children amidst modernization and the role of community organizations such as Karang Taruna. The main objective is to investigate the role of Karang Taruna Akasia Kreatif in developing the religious potential of school-age children and to identify supporting and inhibiting factors on Jalan Akasia, Banjarbaru. Using a descriptive qualitative approach, this field research involved observation, in-depth interviews with the Head of RT. 05, the Head of Karang Taruna Akasia Kreatif, and 10 school-age children, as well as documentation. Data analysis includes reduction, presentation, and verification. The findings indicate that Karang Taruna Akasia Kreatif actively develops children's religious potential through structured religious programs, which increase participation and skills (eg, Azan, Habsyi, Tilawah). Supporting factors include high member participation and strong support from the community and government. Meanwhile, inhibiting factors come from internal organizations (lack of systematic knowledge among some members, busy schedules) and external factors (inadequate facilities)

Keywords: Karang Taruna, Religious Potential. School Age Children.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini mengkaji tantangan pengembangan potensi keagamaan anak usia sekolah di tengah modernisasi dan peran organisasi kemasyarakatan seperti Karang Taruna. Tujuan utamanya adalah menginvestigasi peran Karang Taruna Akasia Kreatif dalam mengembangkan potensi keagamaan anak usia sekolah serta mengidentifikasi faktor pendukung dan penghambat di Jalan Akasia, Banjarbaru. Menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif, penelitian lapangan ini melibatkan observasi, wawancara mendalam dengan Ketua RT. 05, Ketua Karang Taruna Akasia Kreatif, dan 10 anak usia sekolah, serta dokumentasi. Analisis data meliputi reduksi, penyajian, dan verifikasi. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa Karang Taruna Akasia Kreatif secara aktif mengembangkan potensi keagamaan anak melalui program keagamaan terstruktur, yang meningkatkan partisipasi dan keterampilan (misalnya, Azan, Habsyi, Tilawah). Faktor pendukung meliputi partisipasi anggota yang tinggi serta dukungan kuat dari masyarakat dan pemerintah. Sementara itu, faktor penghambat berasal dari internal organisasi (kurangnya pengetahuan sistematis di antara sebagian anggota, jadwal padat) dan eksternal (fasilitas tidak memadai)

Kata Kunci: Karang Taruna; Potensi Keagamaan; Anak Usia Sekolah

A. Introduction

Humans as caliphs on earth are endowed with potential, including religious potential, which must be developed from an early age.¹This potential is crucial for being nurtured by skilled people around them. Children are born with a religious innate talent, a natural talent that can be developed over time. The development of this fundamental potential is highly dependent on education and the environment.²Verses of the Qur'an, such as QS Ar-Ruum verse 30, and the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, emphasize that every child is born in a state of purity and that their parents and environment play an important role in shaping their religious beliefs.

Communities also need a religious generation to foster peace. Awareness of the importance of instilling religious values in school-age children is crucial to prevent the younger generation from falling into negative influences and to enable them to uphold religious values in the modern era.

As social beings, humans cannot live alone and constantly interact in groups to achieve common goals. Karang Taruna is a community organization that serves as a forum for the development of community members, especially the younger generation, in the religious field to achieve social welfare. Minister of Social Affairs Regulation No. 25 of 2019, Article 4, states that Karang Taruna aims to foster awareness of social responsibility among the younger generation in anticipating, preventing, and addressing social problems.³

Karang Taruna plays an important role in protecting teenagers from less useful activities, diverting their time to positive activities, so that there is no time for negative things. The role of youth in society is defined as a set of behaviors that individuals are expected to have according to their position.⁴

Jalan Akasia, Landasan Ulin Tengah Village, Liang Anggang District, Banjarbaru City, is a predominantly Muslim settlement that is active in religious activities such as reading Burdah, Maulid Habsyi, PHBI, Yasinan, and Al-Quran

¹Sunandar Azma'ul Hadi, "Pengembangan Potensi Keagamaan Anak Usia Dini Melalui Implementasi Parenting" Edukasi dan Sains, Vol.3 No.3 (Oktober, 2021), h.366

²Syarifah Ismail, "Tinjauan Filosofis Pengembangan Fitrah Manusia Dalam Pendidikan Islam", At-Ta'dib, Vol.8 No.2 (Desember, 2013), h. 3

³Peraturan Menteri Sosial Nomor 25 Tahun 2019 Bab II Pasal 4 Tentang Tugas Karang Taruna

⁴Syamsir, Torang, Organisasi & Manajemen (Perilaku, Struktur, Budaya & Perubahan Organisasi), (Bandung: Alfabeta, 2014), h. 86..

Education.⁵The local youth organization, known as Karang Taruna Akasia Kreatif (Karta Ak-tif), plays an active role in these activities. Karang Taruna Akasia Kreatif's vision is to produce a generation of young people who are creative, innovative, independent, moral, and beneficial to society. Based on this, the researchers were interested in further examining the role of Karang Taruna in developing the religious potential of school-age children in the area.

The formulation of the research problem is: (1) What is the role of the Akasia Creative Youth Organization in developing the religious potential of school-age children on Jalan Akasia, Landasan Ulin Tengah Village, Liang Anggang District? (2) What are the supporting and inhibiting factors of the Akasia Creative Youth Organization in developing the religious potential of school-age children on Jalan Akasia, Landasan Ulin Tengah Village, Liang Anggang District?

The objectives to be achieved in this research are: (1) To find out the role of the Akasia Creative Youth Organization in developing the religious potential of school-age children on Jalan Akasia, Landasan Ulin Tengah Subdistrict, Liang Anggang District, Banjarbaru City. (2) To find out what are the supporting and inhibiting factors of the Akasia Creative Youth Organization in Developing the Religious Potential of School-Age Children on Jalan Akasia, Landasan Ulin Tengah Village, Liang Anggang District, Banjarbaru City.

This research is expected to provide both theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, it aims to expand knowledge regarding the role of Karang Taruna in developing the religious potential of school-age children, serve as a scientific reference, and contribute to the broader body of academic knowledge. Practically, the study offers several benefits for different stakeholders. For the author, it functions as a scientific analysis to better understand the implementation of the youth organization's programs, including the supporting and inhibiting factors involved. For parents, the findings can serve as a guide in supporting and nurturing their children within the context of social and religious life. For the wider community, the research can offer insights and input on how to guide the younger generation to become religiously grounded individuals and uphold religious values. A relevant previous study that supports this context is Hasanuddin (2018), titled "Community Religious Activities in the Wengga II Golf Complex, Liang Anggang District, Banjarbaru City," conducted under the Islamic Religious Education Study Program at Al-Falah Islamic

⁵SFR/Head of RT. 05, Personal Interview, Landasan Ulin Tengah, September 5, 2024

College, Banjar. This study explored religious activities within a community setting and highlights the importance of such practices in fostering religious life in similar communities.

B. Literature Review

To provide conceptual clarity in this research, several operational definitions are used. The term role, as defined by Soerjono Soekanto, refers to the dynamic aspect of a position or status, in which an individual carries out duties and exercises rights in accordance with their role. In this study, the role of Karang Taruna is understood as the organization's function in fulfilling its responsibilities as a community-based group, particularly in developing the religious potential of school-age children. Karang Taruna itself is a youth-oriented community organization that serves as a platform for social development, especially for the younger generation. It emerges from a sense of social awareness and collective responsibility to promote social welfare, particularly in the religious domain.

This research focuses on Karang Taruna Akasia Kreatif, established in 2022, whose members, aged 14 to 17, hold equal rights and responsibilities. They are involved in various activities—including religious programs—aimed at enhancing the spiritual life of the community. The concept of developing refers to efforts to improve technical, theoretical, conceptual, and moral capabilities through education and training, or by designing learning processes that are logical, systematic, and tailored to individual potential and competence.

In this study, the development in question concerns the religious potential of school-age children through the efforts of Karang Taruna. Religious potential is defined as an individual's inherent capacity for religious thought and behavior, which may remain dormant unless nurtured through positive and structured efforts. Finally, while school-age children are commonly defined by Dian Putri as those aged 7 to 12, this study adopts a broader definition, encompassing children aged 7 to 18, including students from elementary to senior high school (up to 12th grade). To clarify the concepts in this research, here are the operational definitions:

1. Role: According to Soerjono Soekanto, role is a dynamic aspect of position or status, where a person exercises rights and obligations according to his position.⁶In this context, the role of Karang Taruna is to carry out its duties as a

⁶ Soerjono Soekanto, *Role Theory*, (Jakarta: Bumi Aksara, 2002), p.243

community organization in developing the religious potential of school-age children.

2. Karang Taruna: A community organization as a forum for community development, especially for the younger generation, which grows out of social awareness and responsibility in realizing social welfare, especially in the religious field.⁷The subject of this research was the Karang Taruna Akasia Kreatif, founded in 2022. Its members, aged 14-17, have equal rights and responsibilities. They carry out numerous activities, including religious ones, to develop the community's religious potential.
3. Developing: Efforts to improve technical, theoretical, conceptual and moral abilities through education and training, or the process of designing learning logically and systematically by paying attention to potential and competence.⁸In this research, what is developed is the religious potential of school-age children by Karang Taruna.
4. Religious Potential: The human capacity for religious life that remains dormant and has not yet manifested in beliefs and behavior. This potential requires positive development efforts to prevent it from growing unchecked.⁹
5. School-Age Children: According to Dian Putri, school-age children are those aged 7-12. However, in this study, the age range was 7-18, encompassing children up to 12th grade high school students.

C. Method

This research is a descriptive field research with a qualitative approach. The subjects of the research are the Akasia Kreatif Youth Organization and the community on Jalan Akasia, Landasan Ulin Tengah Village, Liang Anggang District, Banjarbaru City. The object of the research is the role of the Youth Organization in developing the religious potential of school-age children on Jalan Akasia, Landasan Ulin Tengah Village, Liang Anggang District, Banjarbaru City.

Regarding the data that will be explored in this research, there are two types, namely primary data and supporting data.

⁷Minister of Social Affairs Regulation Number 25 of 2019 Chapter II Article 4 Concerning the Duties of Karang Taruna

⁸Abdul Majid, *Learning Planning*, (Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya, 2005), p. 24.

⁹Hafid Rustiawan, "The Role of Reason in Religious Potential", *PAI GENEALOGY*, Vol.7 No.2 (December, 2020), p. 95

- a. Primary Data is data related to the Role of Active Youth Organizations in developing the Potential of School-Age Children on Jalan Akasia, Landasan Ulin Tengah Subdistrict, Liang Anggang District, Banjarbaru City, which includes:
 - 1) The role of the Active Youth Organization in developing Religious Potential on Jalan Akasia, Landasan Ulin Tengah Village, Liang Anggang District, Banjarbaru City, which includes:
 - a) The Role of Karang Taruna
 - b) Development of Religious Potential of School-Age Children on Jalan Akasia, Landasan Ulin Tengah Village, Liang Anggang District, Banjarbaru City
 - 2) Supporting and inhibiting factors for the role of active youth organizations in developing religious potential in school-age children on Jalan Akasia, Landasan Ulin Tengah Village, Liang Anggang District, Banjarbaru City include:
 - a) Youth Organization Factors,
 - b) Community Environmental Factors.
- b. Supporting Data, is characteristic data that supports the main data related to the general description of the research location, which includes:
 - 1) Profile of Active Youth Organization, Vision, Mission, and Work Program of Active Youth Organization on Jalan Akasia, Landasan Ulin Tengah Village, Liang Anggang District, Banjarbaru City.
 - 2) Condition of Active Karang Taruna Organization Management and Members.
 - 3) Facilities and Infrastructure for the Karang Taruna Religious Activities Program are active in developing the potential of school-age children on Jalan Akasia.

In order to obtain clearer data, the researcher conducted research through:

- a. Respondents are individuals who are knowledgeable and responsible for the research objectives. As discussed in this study, the respondents were the Head of the Active Youth Organization and the Head of the Religious Division of the Active Youth Organization.
- b. An informant is someone who acts as an assistant to the researcher and is used to provide information about the situation and conditions of the research setting. The informants in this study were the Head of RT.05 and RW.02, Landasan Ulin Tengah Village, Liang Anggang District, Banjarbaru City.
- c. Documentation, is a record of information related to the data to be researched on Jalan Akasia, Landasan Ulin Tengah Village, Liang Anggang District, Banjarbaru City.

Researchers use data collection techniques, namely:

1. Observation: Direct observation of the activities and roles of Karang Taruna.
2. Interview: In-depth interviews with the Head of RT. 05, the Head of Karang Taruna, residents, and school-age children.
3. Documentation: Data collection through related documents.

Data Matrix Table, Data Sources and Data Collection Techniques

No.	Data	Data source	Data Collection Techniques
1	The role of the Active Youth Organization in developing the potential of school-age children on Jalan Akasia, Landasan Ulin Tengah Village, Liang Anggang District, Banjarbaru Regency, which includes: a. Planning Stages, b. Implementation Level, c. Evaluation stage.	Active Youth Organization Management	Observation, interview
2	Supporting and inhibiting factors for the implementation of the Darul Hadith Program include: a. Youth Organization Factors, b. School Age Children Factors, c. Community Environmental Factors.	Active Karang Taruna Management and Community	Observation, Interview
3	Supporting data is characteristic data that supports the main data related to the general description of the research location, which includes: a. Profile of Active Youth Organization, Vision, Mission, and Work Program of Active Youth Organization on Jalan Akasia, Landasan Ulin Tengah Village, Liang Anggang District, Banjarbaru City. b. Condition of Active Karang Taruna Organization Management and Members. c. Facilities and Infrastructure for the Karang Taruna Religious Activities Program are active in developing the potential of school-age children on Jalan Akasia.	Active Karang Taruna Management and Community	Observation, Interviews and Documentation

Data Management Techniques that accumulated processed with:

1. Data Reduction: Selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming raw data.
2. Data Presentation: Describe the results of observations, interviews, and documentation in an organized manner.
3. Verification: Checking the validity of data.

Data Analysis Technique, namely data is analyzed descriptively qualitatively, then conclusions are drawn using inductive techniques (from specific to general).

D. Results and Discussion

The role of Karang Taruna in the community carries a significant responsibility to uphold the common good. The head of neighborhood association (RT) 05 on Akasia Street, Mr. Sufiyannor, stated that Karang Taruna has had numerous positive impacts through its work programs, both for school-age children and adults. They play an active role in everything from existing activities to new work programs, despite the presence of obstacles. Residents of Akasia Street also strive to be a supporting factor for Karang Taruna in realizing the village's vision and mission.

Mr. Sufiyannor emphasized the importance of the Karang Taruna's highly active role in both social and religious activities, resulting in increased community participation, including children. Children who previously had little interest in the village are now motivated to actively participate in the advancement of Kampung Akasia thanks to the energy of Karang Taruna.

The Chairperson of the Akasia Kreatif Youth Organization also stated that the Youth Organization strives to play an important role in community development, particularly in youth empowerment and improving the quality of life at the village/sub-district level, through various work programs in the social and religious fields.

Interviews with 10 school-aged children on Jalan Akasia revealed that Karang Taruna (Youth Organization) has a significant positive impact, encouraging those who previously had no interest in organizations or social activities. Through Karang Taruna, they can directly participate in community activities. These activities fill their daily lives with meaningful activities, contribute to the well-being of the village, and enhance each child's knowledge and skills.

One of the goals of Karang Taruna is to encourage the growth of the potential and abilities of the younger generation in order to develop community empowerment.

Religion often serves as the foundation for moral norms, rituals, and daily habits, and provides insights into the origins of the universe, the meaning of life, and the purpose of human existence.

The Head of Neighborhood Association (RT) 05, interviewed on October 7, 2024, stated that the religious potential of school-age children on Jalan Akasia has actually grown during the Karang Taruna's tenure. He highlighted significant developments in the field of Habsyi (religious music). Children who previously lacked the understanding of tempo and the sound of the tambourine or notes are now able to participate in Islamic holiday celebrations outside the Akasia village. In the art of reciting the Quran (Tilawah), the children's abilities have also improved thanks to the twice-monthly training held by Karang Taruna. Similarly, in the field of the call to prayer, the children are beginning to recognize a more varied rhythm of the call to prayer.

The Akasia Kreatif Youth Organization's programs to develop the religious potential of children on Jalan Akasia have both supporting and inhibiting factors. The Chairman of Akasia Kreatif Youth Organization stated on October 28, 2024, that the programs are running as expected, but it cannot be denied that problems are always encountered within any organization that seeks to foster a sense of solidarity.

Inhibiting Factors: (1) The busy schedule of each member of the youth organization makes the activity process run less than optimally. (2) Facilities and infrastructure in every youth organization activity are one of the benchmarks for the success of religious activities, and inadequate facilities are an obstacle.

Supporting Factors: (1) The enthusiasm and passion of residents and school-age children to participate in Karang Taruna activities. (2) Support from the Head of RT. 05 and the local community. (3) The clear vision and mission of Karang Taruna Akasia Kreatif.

E. Conclusion

Based on the research results, it can be concluded that the role of the Akasia Kreatif Youth Organization has been evident in realizing the development of the religious potential of school-age children on Jalan Akasia, Landasan Ulin Tengah Village, Liang Anggang District, Banjarbaru City. This role is realized through religious programs and activities planned by the Akasia Kreatif Youth Organization. Although there are inhibiting factors such as busy members and lack of facilities, community

enthusiasm and support from various parties are the main supporting factors in the success of these programs.

To ensure the success of Karang Taruna's role in developing the religious potential of school-aged children on Jalan Akasia, it is recommended that Karang Taruna Akasia Kreatif maintain unity, coordination, and good cooperation in optimizing and implementing planned work programs. Karang Taruna administrators and members are expected to remain solid in their struggle within the community and continue to learn how to manage the organization so that the programs realized meet expectations. It is necessary to continue to establish cooperation and build good communication with the entire community in Landasan Ulin Tengah and other sub-districts so that the program can be successful. The government is expected to continue to support, oversee, support, and motivate both morally and materially every work program of Karang Taruna Akasia Kreatif.

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