



Motivation and Forms of Student Activities in Religious Organizations

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Abstract

Religious organizations are a place and means for students to develop their abilities. This research aims to find out what the real motivations of students are to join religious organizations and what are the forms of student activity in religious organizations. This research uses a qualitative method with a case study approach. Data sources were taken from 12 informants through in-depth interviews who were selected using techniques purposive sampling, all informants are students who are still active in religious organizations at Universitas Negeri Padang. All interview results were then analyzed thematically using the Analysis Interactive Model Milles & Hubberman analysis models. Overall, the results of the analysis show that there are four motivations and six forms of student activity in religious organizations. The four motivations are i) wanting to deepen religious knowledge, ii) expanding relationships, iii) adding organizational experience, iv) according to the major in college. There are six forms of student activities in religious organizations, namely i) participating in Islamic studies/tabligh akbar/Islamic webinars, ii) discussing religious issues iii) raising funds for social assistance, iv) orphanage visits, v) becoming a committee/administrator of a religious organization, vi) training organizational basis. The results of this study can be used as initial data for further researchers in studying this problem in different contexts and issues.

INTRODUCTION

Students are the nation's next generation who will be a reference for the success of this country, therefore students are expected to be able to implement their knowledge for the progress of this country (Muslich, 2022; Al Ma'idha et al., 2021). According to Caesari & Listiara, (2013); Saputra et al., (2016) one way that can be done to implement knowledge and improve student personality is by being active in organizations. Research conducted states that there is a significant influence between organizational activity and student achievement. This is in line with what is stated in the Decree of the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia Number 155/U/1998 concerning guidelines for student organizations in tertiary institutions in article one which explains that student organizations are a forum and a means to increase the insight and integrity of student personality (Salim, 2012; Kurnia, 2014).

Research related to the issue of motivation is always interesting to discuss and

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research, because it is directly related to a person's personality (Rahawarin et al., 2020; Uno, 2023). According to Norsidi, (2017) someone who will join an organization needs encouragement and motivation to join an organization. And based on the results of research conducted by Cahyorinartri, (2018) concluded that there were several student motivations in participating in student organization activities, including; to forge oneself, develop potential, expand relationships and train the ability to communicate in public.

Regarding the issue of religious organizations, there have been several studies conducted by previous researchers discussing religious organizations, including; research conducted which discusses the role of religious organizations in the economic modernization of Islamic communities in Pekanbaru City. Then research conducted which examined the influence of spiritual organizations on students' religious behavior, the results of this study concluded that there was a positive and significant influence of students participating in spiritual organizations (ROHIS) on students' religious behavior (Pratama & Siraj, 2019; Widowati et al., 2020; Albania et al., 2020).

Regarding the topic that the author is studying, the author also needs to explain that at Universitas Negeri Padang there are several University-level and Faculty-level Religious Organizations. Among these religious organizations namely; Spiritual Activity Unit (UKK), Al-Qalam Islamic Study Forum (FORSIA), Islamic Student Forum (FORMIS), FORMI Madani, Islamic Dynamics Study Forum (FSDI), and several other religious organizations.

As for the topic that the author wants to do research on this discussion, namely related to what the actual motivation of students to join religious organizations and what forms of activities in religious organizations are attended by students. Therefore, based on the background that the author explained earlier, it is certainly very important and interesting to conduct research related to what students' real motivation is in joining religious organizations and what are the forms of student activity in religious organizations.

METHODS

This research uses a qualitative method with a case study approach (Hamzah, 2019; Fitrah & Luthfiyah, 2017). According to Cresswell et al., (2011); Yin, (2011); Marriam & Tisdell, (2015) research that uses a case study approach is one of the right ways to use when researchers want to examine a study in depth. Sources of research data were taken from twelve informants through in-depth interviews who were selected using techniques purposive sampling, there are four criteria in the selection of informants, namely; The selected informants understand well the problem being researched, are still active in the field being studied, have the time to provide information to researchers, and provide information in accordance with the facts in the field. To meet these criteria, all informants are active students who are members of religious organizations at Universitas Negeri Padang. After the interviews were completed, all informants were taken, then the data analysis process was carried out. This data analysis process is carried out by the writer using the Analysis Interactive Model Milles & Hubberman analysis model by going through four stages, namely; obtaining data, reducing data, presenting data and drawing conclusions (Al Ma'idha et al., 2021; Amnda et al., 2020; Wyananda et al., 2022).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of interviews with twelve informants, the results of the analysis actually found that there were four important themes related to the real motivation of students to join religious organizations and there were six forms of student activity in religious organizations. The four motivational themes and the six themes of the activity can be seen in Figure 1 and Figure 2 below.



Figure 1. Description of Student Motivation to join a religious organization

Based on Figure 1. The author can explain that after conducting in-depth interviews with informants, there are four motivations for students to join religious organizations. The four themes are i) wanting to deepen religious knowledge, ii) expanding relationships, iii) adding organizational experience, iv) in accordance with the majors in lectures.

To make it more interesting, in the following, the author will describe excerpts from interviews with informants based on the four themes described above. The description of the interview that the author will display is a brief statement excerpt from the informant in a slightly different language editor, but actually has more or less the same goals and objectives.

First, wanting to deepen religious knowledge, according to the informant one of the motivations for joining a religious organization was because he wanted to deepen religious knowledge. This theme was stated by informants 1, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 12 as excerpts from the below

..... one of my motivations is to deepen my religious knowledge so that I can be istiqomah (1) My motivation is to deepen my religious knowledge in order to increase my faith and piety (6)my motivation is that I want to deepen my knowledge of religion because, apart from the world, the hereafter must be prioritized (7)I want to deepen my religious knowledge so that I can get closer to Allah and improve myself to be even better (8) because I feel I still lack religious knowledge. Sehingga Saga wants to learn and deepen the knowledge of religion (11) Want to deepen the knowledge of religion, so that always istiqomah and close to God (12).

Second, wanting to expand relations, according to the informant one of his motivations for joining a religious organization was because he wanted to expand relations. This theme was stated by informants 2, 3 and 8 as excerpts from the interview below

.... I want to broaden relations and add insight in organization (2) My motivation is to expand relationships so that I can be in an environment of people who want to be close to God (3) ... because I am an overseas person and far from my parents, it is hoped that by joining a religious organization on campus I can have friends and a good environment (8)

Third, experience in organizing, according to the informant one of the motivations for joining a religious organization is wanting to gain experience in being in an organization. This theme was stated by informants 2 and 5, as in the interview excerpt below

.... among my motivations is to learn and gain organizational experience (2) And one of my motivations is to gain experience in organization (5)

Fourth, is in accordance with the major in college, according to the informant one of the motivations for joining a religious organization was because it was in accordance with

the major in college. This theme was stated by informant 9, as in the interview excerpt below

..... one of my motivations is because it is in accordance with the major in my lecture (9)

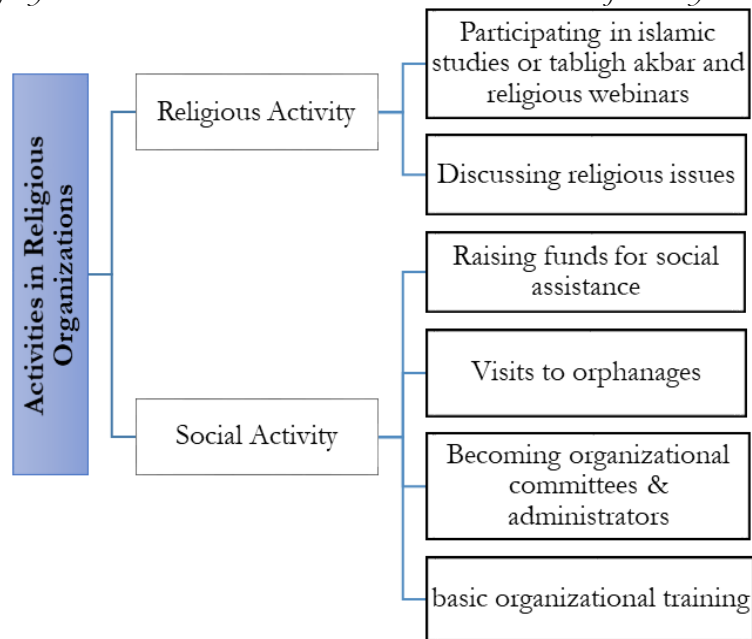


Figure 2. Description of Activities in Religious Organizations

Based on the results of interviews with all informants, it was found that there were six important themes related to forms of student activity in religious organizations. The six themes are i) participating in Islamic studies or tabligh akbar and religious webinars, ii) discussing religious issues, iii) raising funds for social assistance, iv) visits to orphanages, v) becoming organizational committees & administrators, vi) basic organizational training.

Actually, research and issues related to aspects of motivation in an organization have been widely studied by previous researchers. For example, research that discusses the effect of motivation on employee performance in organizations/companies, such as the results of research conducted by (Erwantiningsih, 2019; Andayani & Tirtayasa, 2019; Gultom, 2015). And research on organizational influence on learning achievement (Rivaldi, 2013; Zandrato, 2018). There is also research that discusses student motivation to join the organization (Cahyorinartri, 2018). All of the above research results show the influence of motivation in organizations.

Regarding the issue of students' motivation to join religious organizations, the results of this study actually found four important themes about real case that underlie students' motivation to join religious organizations. In order to make the four findings of this research more interesting, the writer will discuss them based on theory, expert opinion, and the results of previous research that discusses problems in more or less the same context and issues.

First, to deepen religious knowledge. As a Muslim it is very important to study and deepen religious knowledge. Religious organizations are one of the containers and means to deepen religious knowledge (Asfiati, 2019). Because in the activities of religious organizations there are a lot of activities that can add insight into religious knowledge, such as Islamic studies, sermons and Islamic webinars. By studying and deepening the knowledge of religion, it is hoped that it can influence a person's behavior for the better. The results of research conducted concluded that there is an influence of religious organizations on a person's behavior (Madhani et al., 2021).

Second, to expand the relationship. Organizing is one way to multiply and expand relationships. Through religious organizations will have the opportunity to get friends and a good environment (Gunawan et al., 2022). Because the friendship environment greatly influences a person's behavior as research. Utami, (2018); Hidayah & Bowo, (2018) concluded that there is an influence of the friendship environment on a person's behavior.

Third, to gain organizational experience. Students must look for experiences in order to develop and improve their abilities. Religious organizations are one means of seeking experience. Research conducted by Suranto, (2018); Rahmatika & Aprilia, (2019) concluded that organizational experience can improve student abilities and personality.

Fourth, in accordance with the major in college. The author needs to explain that at Universitas Negeri Padang there is a Department of Islamic Studies, so according to the informant his motivation was to join a religious organization so that he could add insight regarding religious knowledge. According to the author, this is very appropriate, because in religious organizations there are so many activities that can increase insight regarding religious knowledge, such as attending Islamic studies, sermons and religious webinars.

CONCLUSION

This research has succeeded in uncovering four motivations for students to join religious organizations and six forms of activities that students participate in in religious organizations. The four motivations are wanting to deepen religious knowledge, wanting to expand relationships, wanting to gain experience in organizing, and in accordance with the majors in lectures. And the six forms of these activities are participating in Islamic studies or tabligh akbar and religious webinars, discussions related to religious issues, raising funds for social assistance, visits to orphanages, becoming committee or administrators of religious organizations, and basic organizational training. The results of this research have succeeded in revealing what the real motivations and forms of student activity are in religious organizations. At least the results of this study can be used as a basis and reference for further researchers to examine this issue in different contexts and issues.

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