



The Influence of Parental Guidance on Children's Religious Character

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ABSTRACT

Parental guidance plays a very important role in the formation of children's character, especially in building religious character. In some cases, many parents do not understand or do not pay enough attention to this aspect, so that their children do not have a strong religious foundation. The purpose of this study was to determine the effect of parental guidance on children's religious character. This study uses a quantitative research type. The population in this study was 112 children in Bandar Jaya Timur Village, Terbanggi Besar District, Central Lampung Regency. Research sample. The research sample using the Slovin formula obtained 53 research samples. The results of the study based on a significance value of $0.006 < 0.05$, then H_a is accepted and H_o is rejected. It can be said that there is an influence of parental guidance on children's religious character.

Keywords: Parental Guidance, Religious Characteristics

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INTRODUCTION

Parental guidance has a very important role in forming children's character, especially in building religious character (Fikriyah et al., 2022; Harahap et al., 2025). The family, as the first environment known to children, is the main foundation in the formation of values and norms that will guide children throughout their lives (Metboki, 2020; Rosikum, 2018). Parents who provide consistent guidance in spiritual aspects, such as teaching prayer, reading holy books, and practicing religious values in daily life, can help children internalize these religious principles (Handayani et al., 2022; Windiharta, 2019). This is becoming increasingly relevant amidst current developments which often introduce values that are not in line with religious teachings.

Parental guidance and religious character are very closely related, because parents are the main role models in children's lives (Sari & Handayani, 2022b). Through the guidance provided, both verbally and through real examples, parents can instill religious values that become the foundation of their children's lives (Anikoh & Muarif, 2024; Huda, 2021). The example of parents in carrying out worship, showing honest, caring and disciplined attitudes will shape children's thought patterns and behavior that reflect religious character (Maulida & Ratnasari, 2024). Consistent and loving guidance will help children understand the importance of living a life based on religious teachings, so that they are able to grow into individuals with morals and integrity (Achmad, 2024).

Religious character in children is an important indicator in forming a generation with morals and integrity (Lailiyah & Wunawir, 2025). Children who have a religious

character tend to be better able to face life's challenges with a positive attitude and based on religious values. However, many studies show that the formation of religious character does not occur automatically, but requires the active involvement of parents (Kurniasari et al., 2022; Lidiawati & Purnama, 2023; Sari & Handayani, 2022a). In some cases, many parents do not understand or pay enough attention to this aspect, so that their children do not have a strong religious foundation. This phenomenon is becoming increasingly worrying with the influence of globalization and technological developments which can influence children's thinking patterns and behavior. Information that is widely spread through digital media often carries values that conflict with religious teachings, so children need strong filters to sort out what is good and bad (Amalia & Dewi, 2022; Deswita et al., 2023; Sabila et al., 2024). In this context, parental guidance becomes very important to help children maintain religious values amidst the current of modernization.

Research shows that parental guidance plays an important role in forming children's religious character. Democratic parenting has been proven to be more effective than authoritarian parenting in cultivating religious character in children (Wardani et al., 2023). Parents can foster religious and honest character in their children through various methods, including by example, early education, habit formation, and open dialogue (Lidiawati & Purnama, 2023). To successfully shape a child's religious character, a comprehensive approach is needed that involves family, school and community (Purwaningsih & Syamsudin, 2022). Parental guidance and attention is very important in protecting children from the negative influence of peers and the negative impacts of society (Rambe, 2018). This research is novel in highlighting the influence of parental guidance on children's religious character in Bandar Jaya Timur Village, Terbanggi Besar District, Central Lampung Regency, which is an area with unique socio-cultural characteristics. The focus of this research is not only on the role of parental guidance in general, but also how the local context, and rural community life, influences parental guidance patterns and their impact on the formation of children's religious character. Thus, it is hoped that this research can provide a new perspective in understanding the relationship between parental guidance and children's religious character in an environment that has specific socio-cultural dynamics.

METHODS

This research uses a quantitative type of research. Quantitative research methods are research methods intended to explain phenomena using numerical data, then analyzed generally using statistics (Sugiyono, 2016). The method used in this research is a descriptive method. The descriptive method focuses on solving problems that exist in the present. The population in this study was 112 children in the village of Bandar Jaya Timur, Terbanggi Besar District, Central Lampung Regency. Research sample. The research sample using the Slovin formula obtained 53 research samples.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

This research uses quantitative data analysis techniques which are analyzed through inferential statistical analysis. Inferential statistical analysis aims to test hypotheses. Before carrying out statistical analysis, researchers described the characteristics of the respondents in their research. The description of the characteristics of respondents in this study includes gender. The sample used in this

research was 53 respondents. The number of characteristics of respondents based on gender can be seen in the following table:

Table 1. Characteristics of Respondents Based on Gender

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Man	16	30.19
	Woman	37	63.81
	Total	53	100.0

Source: Results of Distribution of Questionnaires

Based on the table above, it can be seen that the percentage of respondents based on gender is 16 male respondents, while female respondents are 37 respondents. The description of the characteristics of respondents in this study includes age as follows

Table 2. Characteristics of Respondents Based on Age

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	8-12	15	28.30
	13-17	21	39.62
	18-22	17	32.08
	Total	53	100.0

Source: Results of Distribution of Questionnaires

Based on the table above, it can be seen that the characteristics of the respondents based on age who filled out the questionnaire, were mostly respondents who fell into the 13-17 year age category, namely 36 respondents (39.62%). Furthermore, statistical data analysis is carried out after the data is obtained from the sample through the selected instruments and will be used to answer problems in the research or to test the hypotheses proposed through data presentation. Based on the type of data used by researchers, researchers in their analysis use statistical analysis with the following stages:

1. Normality Test

The simplest normality test graphs the frequency distribution of existing scores. The normality test is intended to find out whether the research data comes from a normal population or not. The basis for decision making in the normality test is that if the significance value is > 0.05 then the residual value is normally distributed. But if the significance value is < 0.05 , then the residual value is not normally distributed. If the research data comes from a normal distribution, then continue with the homogeneity test using the SPSS application.

Table 3. Normality Test
One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test

		Unstandardized Residual
N		53
Normal Parameters ^{a,b}	Mean	.0000000
	Std. Deviation	12.29409080
Most Extreme Differences	Absolute	.113
	Positive	.059
	Negative	-.113
Test Statistic		.113
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		.087 ^c

a. Test distribution is Normal.

b. Calculated from data.

c. Lilliefors Significance Correction.

Based on the results of the normality test on routine data, the Sig value. = 0.087, which means the Sig value. > 0.05 then the data is Normally distributed.

2. Linearity Test

The linearity test is used to determine whether the relationship between two variables is linear or not, which is an important assumption in regression analysis. With this test, it can be ensured that changes in the independent variable are proportionally related to changes in the dependent variable. If the sig value. deviation from linearity > 0.05, then there is a linear relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable. If the sig value. deviation from linearity < 0.05 means there is no linear relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable. The following is the linearity test table:

**Table 4. Linearity Test
ANOVA Table**

			Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Religious Characteristics * Parental Guidance	Between Groups	(Combined)	7479.588	38	196.831	1.665	.153
		Linearity	1275.232	1	1275.232	10.786	.005
		Deviation from Linearity	6204.356	37	167.685	1.418	.245
	Within Groups		1655.167	14	118.226		
	Total		9134.755	52			

Based on Table 4, the results obtained are that Deviation from Linearity > 0.05 which indicates that there is a linear relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable.

3. Hypothesis Testing

To determine the effect of parental guidance on children's religious characteristics by conducting statistical tests using the simple linear regression method. Simple linear regression analysis as a method of approaching the relationship between the dependent variable and the independent variable. In simple linear regression analysis the relationship between variables is linear, where changes in variable X will be followed by constant changes in variable Y. The main purpose of using simple linear regression is to predict or estimate the value of the dependent variable in relation to the independent variable, so that a decision can be made to predict how much will change if the value of the variable is increased or decreased. Decision making in a simple linear regression test is that if the significance value is < 0.05 then variable X has an effect on Y, if the significance value is > 0.05 then variable Simple linear regression is used on the hypothesis:

H_a = There is an influence of parental guidance on children's religious character.

H_0 = There is no influence of parental guidance on children's religious character.

Table 5. Simple Linear Regression Test
ANOVA^a

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Say.
1 Regressi on	1275.232	1	1275.232	8.275	.006 ^b
Residual	7859.523	51	154.108		
Total	9134.755	52			

a. Dependent Variable: KarakteristikReligius

b. Predictors: (Constant), BimbinganOrtu

From the table above, it can be seen that the significance value is $0.006 < 0.05$, so H_a is accepted and H_o is rejected. It can be said that there is an influence of parental guidance on children's religious character

DISCUSSION

Parental guidance has a very significant role in shaping a child's religious character. Parents are the first educators who interact directly with children from an early age, so that the religious values taught by parents have a deep impact on children's moral and spiritual development. Through parenting that is full of love, example, and good communication, children slowly absorb religious values such as honesty, responsibility, and devotion to worship. Apart from that, parents' habits of involving children in religious activities such as congregational prayers, reading holy books, and attending family recitations help internalize these values in children.

The influence of parental guidance on children's religious character can also be seen from how they face challenges in maintaining consistent religious values amidst current developments. Parents who are proactive in accompanying their children to face negative environmental influences, such as a culture of hedonism or the influence of social media that is not in accordance with religious values, can help children maintain their religious identity. This is proof that parental involvement in guidance not only instills religious values, but also builds a strong moral foundation. In this way, consistent and conscious guidance from parents is able to create a generation that has a religious character and is ready to face future challenges.

Based on research, parental attention, school culture and interactions with peers have a positive impact on the formation of children's religious character (Purwaningsih & Syamsudin, 2022). Democratic parenting is more effective than authoritarian parenting in shaping children's religious character (Wardani et al., 2023). Parents play an important role in cultivating religious and honest character through various methods, including setting an example, early education, habit formation, and open dialogue (Lidiawati & Purnama, 2023). In addition, religious guidance in the educational environment also contributes to the formation of students' religious character, with one study finding that 57.3% of students' religious character was influenced by religious guidance programs (Yuliana et al., 2024). These findings underline the importance of integrated efforts involving family, school and community in successfully cultivating children's religious character (Purwaningsih & Syamsudin, 2022).

The findings of this research have significant differences compared to several previous studies. Purwaningsih & Syamsudin (2022) emphasize that the formation of children's religious character is influenced by parental attention, school culture, and

interactions with peers, while this research focuses more on the main role of parents as the dominant factor in shaping children's religious character. In addition, Wardani et al. (2023) found that democratic parenting is more effective than authoritarian parenting in forming children's religious character. However, this research shows that it is not only the type of parenting that plays a role, but also the active involvement of parents in guiding children through example and daily religious habits. Lidiawati & Purnama (2023) revealed that parents have an important role in cultivating religious character through various methods, but this research highlights how consistent parental interaction and full awareness in religious guidance are the main keys to forming children's religious character. Meanwhile, Yuliana et al. (2024) indicated that 57.3% of students' religious character was influenced by religious guidance programs at school, but this research found that family factors, especially the role of parents, had a more significant influence compared to formal educational institutions.

This research confirms that parental guidance has a crucial role in shaping children's religious character. Parents are not only the first educators in a child's life, but also the main role models in instilling religious values through example, good communication, and involvement in religious activities (Santosa, 2021). The research results show that children who receive intensive guidance from parents in daily worship practices, such as congregational prayers, reading holy books, and attending family prayer studies, tend to have better religious understanding and are more consistent in applying religious values in everyday life. Apart from that, this research also found that parents who proactively guide their children to face modern challenges, such as the influence of social media and secular culture, can help children maintain their religious identity amidst globalization. Thus, continuous and conscious parental guidance contributes significantly to building a child's strong religious character.

The main contribution of this research is to strengthen understanding of the importance of the role of parents in shaping children's religious character and provide a new perspective on how parental guidance can be a dominant factor in children's moral and spiritual development (Bengu, 2024; Nurjanah et al., 2023). The results of this research can be a reference for educators, counselors and policy makers in designing programs to strengthen the role of the family in children's religious character education. Thus, this research not only provides theoretical contributions in the fields of education and psychology, but can also be applied in daily practice to create a generation that has a religious character.

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Parental guidance has a significant influence on children's religious character. Parental guidance has a significant role in shaping children's religious character, because parents are the first educators to introduce religious and moral values. A consistent parenting style with good role models, positive communication, and habituation to daily religious activities helps children internalize spiritual values. Parental support not only provides a moral foundation, but also shapes children's attitudes and behavior that reflect religious values in everyday life. Therefore, effective parental guidance is very necessary to create a generation with noble character and religious integrity.

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