

## The Role of the Family in Building Children's Character on Religious Development in Tanjung Baru Village

Nurul Khotimah<sup>1\*</sup>, Dedi Setiawan<sup>1</sup>, Yuning Eka Rahmawati<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Universitas Ma'arif Lampung, Indonesia

Corresponding Author  nurul01.khatimah@gmail.com\*

### ABSTRACT

This research aims to examine the role of the family in developing children's religious character in Tanjung Baru Village, West Lampung. In the era of modernization, there is a shift in traditional values that influence parenting and education patterns in the family. The family has a crucial role as the first institution that shapes character and instills religious values in children. This research uses a qualitative method with a qualitative descriptive approach, namely collecting data through in-depth interviews, participant observation and documentation. The research subjects were families with children under 11 years old in Tanjung Baru Village. The results of the research show that families in Tanjung Baru Village apply several strategies in developing children's religious character, including through direct teaching, providing role models, habituation in daily life, motivation, and enforcing rules. Direct teaching involves instilling religious values through home learning, such as teaching prayers and reading the Koran. Parents provide role models through attitudes and behavior that reflect religious values. Habits are implemented through religious routines, such as congregational prayers and attending recitations. Motivation is given in the form of appreciation for children's positive behavior, while enforcement of rules is carried out to form discipline and religious responsibility. However, this research also found that there are challenges in developing children's religious character, such as the influence of the social environment, limited access to formal religious education, and changes in lifestyle due to modernization. To overcome these challenges, parents are trying to strengthen communication, increase involvement in religious activities, and collaborate with formal educational institutions and religious communities.

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## INTRODUCTION

The family plays an important role in shaping a child's character, especially in religious development. Children who are raised in a harmonious family environment tend to have strong moral and spiritual values. On the other hand, families who pay less attention to religious character development can cause children to lack understanding of the importance of religious teachings in everyday life (Muntaha, 2022). In the Child Protection Law Number 35 of 2014, children are defined as individuals who have not reached the age of 18 years, including those who are still in the womb. Children are considered a trust from Almighty God who have dignity and

worth as complete human beings. Therefore, cultivating religious character from an early age is the main responsibility of the family to form the next generation who have noble character and have a strong religious awareness (Hanafi, 2022).

Tanjung Baru Village, West Lampung, is an area with a majority Muslim population who uphold religious values. However, the influence of modernization and globalization brings new challenges for families in developing children's religious character. The gap between the ideal role of the family and the reality on the ground is a major concern. Many parents realize the importance of their role in developing their children's character, but are hampered by busyness, time constraints, and the influence of an increasingly complex external environment (Rizqi & Miftakhul, 2023).

Based on the results of a pre-survey conducted in Tanjung Baru Village, several problems were found related to developing children's religious character. Among these is children's lack of understanding of the values of honesty, discipline in worship, and etiquette in speaking. In addition, many parents experience difficulty in instilling religious values consistently due to limited time and lack of supporting facilities. This research aims to analyze the role of the family in developing children's religious character in Tanjung Baru Village, West Lampung (Hyoscyamina & Darosy Endah). By understanding how the family carries out its role, it is hoped that effective strategies can be formulated to strengthen the development of children's religious character. This research is also expected to make a contribution to families, educators and local governments in their efforts to form a young generation with high morality and deep religious awareness (Hagège, et al. 2023).

## METHOD

The qualitative research method used in this research is a qualitative descriptive approach. This approach was chosen to explore and understand the phenomenon of fostering children's religious character in Tanjung Baru Village in depth (Rusandi & Rusli, 2021). Descriptive qualitative research focuses on collecting and analyzing data in the form of words or images, not numbers, thereby allowing researchers to obtain a comprehensive picture of social interactions in the family and community environment. The research was carried out in Tanjung Baru Village, West Lampung, for 2 weeks, namely from 18 February 2025 to 3 March 2025. The selection of this location was based on cultural diversity and religious traditions which can provide comprehensive insight into the role of the family in shaping children's religious character (Sugiono, 2024).

The research subjects were families with children under 11 years of age. The sampling technique used is *purposive sampling*, where subjects are selected deliberately based on certain criteria relevant to the research objectives. These criteria include families with children under 11 years old, diverse backgrounds (education, economics, and religious practices), and willingness to participate in research (Lenaini & Ika, 2021). This technique allows researchers to obtain in-depth and varied information regarding family experiences in developing children's religious character. Data collection was carried out through three main methods, namely in-depth interviews, observation and documentation. The aim of the in-depth interview was to explore the respondents' experiences and views in detail regarding the development of children's religious character. Observations were carried out to directly observe interactions within the family and religious activities in the social environment. Meanwhile, documentation is used to collect written or visual data, such as religious education policies, family records, and other related artifacts (Hasanah, 2016).

The data collected will be analyzed using qualitative data analysis techniques through three main stages: data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. Data reduction involves the process of filtering and summarizing relevant information. The data is presented in the form of a descriptive narrative to facilitate interpretation. Conclusions are drawn by verifying the results through *member check* (confirmation with respondents), triangulation (comparing data from various sources and methods), and *peer review* (discussion with colleagues) to ensure the validity of research findings (Yasin, 2024).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research results from *The Role of the Family in Building Children's Character on Religious Development in Tanjung Baru Village, West Lampung* shows that the family has a major role in forming a child's religious character. However, there are various challenges that hinder the optimization of this role. One of the main findings is that children in Tanjung Baru Village tend not to understand the importance of religious values, such as honesty, discipline in worship and good manners in everyday life. Some children even display deviant behavior, such as lying about how they spend their pocket money or neglecting to pray on time. The main factors that become obstacles in developing children's religious character include busy parents, lack of supporting facilities, and the influence of digital media that is less controlled.

According to Cepi Ramdani et al, the family must be the most comfortable environment for children. The role of the family in children's moral education has important stages because the family is the first place where children receive learning from their parents (Cepi Ramdani et al, 2023). There are several roles of the family in teaching children morals, including:

1. the role of the family in direct teaching to children

Direct teaching is a process in which parents or family members provide direct guidance through daily interactions. Parents need to provide an understanding of good values and morals, as well as guide children to apply the things that parents have exemplified in their daily lives. Such as providing direct examples of honesty, responsibility and discipline through parental behavior.

2. The role of the family in providing motivation for children

The motivation provided can be internal, which grows from within the child, or external, which comes from encouragement from parents and the environment. It is very important to build self-confidence, enthusiasm for learning, and the desire to achieve goals. Motivation from the family, especially parents, can influence children's emotional, social and academic development. Namely, such as building children's self-confidence, for example helping children recognize and develop their potential or talents. If children like to draw, then parents support them by providing drawing tools and encouraging them to take part in competitions.

3. The role of the family in habituating children

Good habits in the family shape children's behavior patterns and play a big role in determining the child's character in the future. This habit is very important because the family is the first environment where children learn and develop good habits. For example, parents instill discipline in their children, such as: teaches children to wake up early, complete school assignments on time, and sleep regularly. Through consistent habits at home, children can form character, discipline and social skills that will be carried into adulthood.

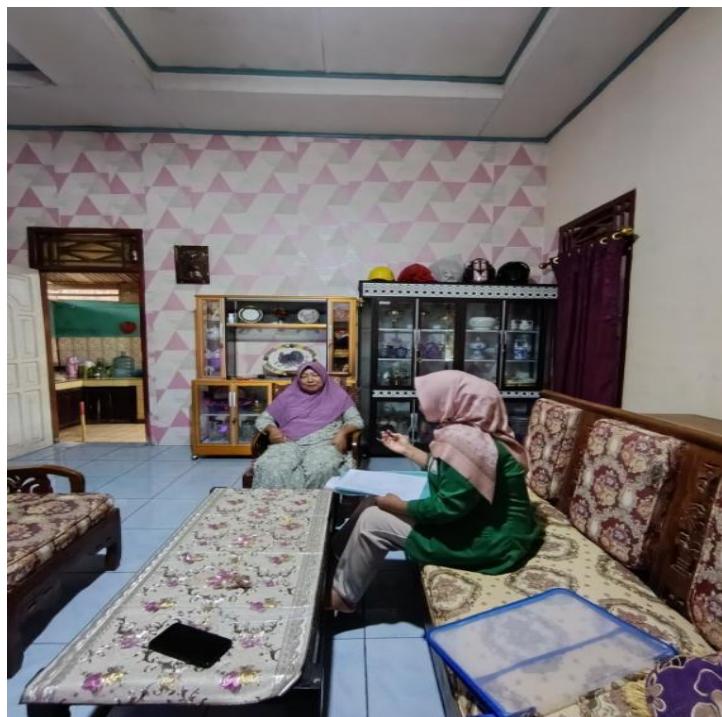
4. The role of the family in enforcing rules towards children

The rules agreed upon within the family aim to create order, comfort and help shape children's morals. These rules are made to be obeyed by all family members, including parents, and function to direct children to good behavior. Such as setting clear rules regarding study, play and rest time. For example, children must complete their homework before playing.

5. The role of the family in setting an example for children

Children tend to learn by imitating. Children's imitative nature is a positive capital for teaching good morals and character, so good behavior shown by parents is very important. For example, parents show honest behavior in every situation, such as admitting mistakes if they forget to keep promises. So parents have indirectly set a good example for their children. If children see that their parents don't lie, they will learn that honesty is an important value.

This role is in line with the results of the interview explained by Mrs. Muslawati as the children's parent that parents have an important role in shaping children's religious character through example and the education provided at home. Children tend to imitate the behavior of their parents, so demonstrating religious values through concrete actions is an effective step in developing their character. Parents can set an example by praying regularly, being honest, patient, and respecting others. For example, by praying on time, reading the Koran together, and always prioritizing politeness towards other people. Apart from that, parents can also implement good habits such as requiring children to recite the Koran and perform the five daily prayers as part of the discipline of daily worship.



Documentation with parents in Tanjung Baru Village, Way Tenong District, West Lampung Regency.

As the first teacher at home, mothers have a major role in introducing Islamic teachings to children from an early age. Introduction to the values of monotheism, daily prayer, and noble morals are important foundations in forming children's religious character. To build good habits, parents can carry out religious activities regularly, such as praying together on time, reading the Koran together, and getting used to praying before and after activities. Apart from that, teaching children to fast Monday-Thursday from a young age can be an effective way to draw them closer to Allah, so that they will be more likely to avoid bad actions. Parents also need to set clear rules to form children's discipline in carrying out worship. For example, limiting play time when it is time to pray, recite the Koran, or bathe so that children get used to respecting time. If children break the rules, they are given educational punishments to instill a sense of responsibility.

The main challenges in educating children are laziness and the influence of the social environment. Therefore, parents must know who their children are friends with and guide them to choose a good environment. Apart from that, monitoring the use of cellphones is also very important, considering that social media can have a big influence on children's thinking patterns and behavior. To foster a spirit of worship, parents can provide motivation such as promising a prize if their child successfully completes fasting for the entire month of Ramadan. With the right approach, children will be more encouraged to carry out religious values with full awareness and discipline.



Documentation with Mr. Sugeng Estafianto S.Pd in Tanjung Baru Village, Way Tenong District, West Lampung Regency.

According to Mr. Sugeng Estafianto as a community figure in Tanjung Baru Village, Way Tenong District, West Lampung Regency, in general the development of children's religious character in Tanjung Village is going well because 100% of the people in this village are Muslim. and The role of the family is very important in shaping children's religious character, because the family is the first and main environment that influences their moral and spiritual development. Most parents in

this village understand this responsibility, but there are still a small number who have limited religious knowledge. They tend to only rely on teaching from school or kindergarten, even though the active role of parents is very influential in shaping a child's personality. Apart from that, some parents also do not provide adequate supervision. For example, when children behave impolitely at the mosque, some parents do not reprimand them or give them the right direction.

Apart from family, the role of society is also very important in helping to develop children's religious character. The social environment such as neighbors, religious institutions, schools and communities play a role in strengthening the religious values that have been taught at home. With mutual support, society can create a religious environment, where the values of mutual respect and helping others become a highly upheld culture. Even though religious education is also taught in kindergartens or schools, parents still have the main responsibility in supervising and guiding children at home. One way is to ask children to repeat the lessons they learned at kindergarten or school. Even though parents have limitations in understanding religious teachings in depth, they are still obliged to control and foster their children's education as a form of primary responsibility in forming a strong religious character.



Documentation with children in Tanjung Baru Village, Way Tenong District, West Lampung Regency.

After researching children, according to them, parents have an important role as role models in forming worship habits at home. By performing worship consistently in front of children, such as performing the five daily prayers, praying, and reading holy books, children will get used to seeing and imitating this behavior. However, there are also parents who can only carry out religious activities at night because the majority work during the day. However, the religious learning process continues because children have a high curiosity. They often ask basic questions like, "Who is God?" or "Why should we worship?" then the parents patiently provide explanations and adapt them to the child's age, and they feel appreciated and find it easier to understand religious teachings in depth.

Some parents who have limited religious knowledge often search for answers via cellphone to answer their children's questions. Apart from that, parents also teach

their children to perform the five daily prayers, recite the Koran, and teach Yasin readings on Friday nights as a religious tradition. Even though there are children who sometimes pray without the presence of their parents because they are busy with work, they are still directed to maintain discipline in worship. Children tend to prefer studying with their families because they don't feel bored and are more comfortable when their parents directly guide them. With active and consistent involvement from parents, children can grow up with a strong understanding of religion and good morals in everyday life.

## CONCLUSION

Based on research regarding "*The Role of the Family in Building Children's Character on Religious Development in Tanjung Baru Village, West Lampung*", it can be concluded that the family has a very important role in shaping a child's religious character. The family as the first environment plays a role in providing teaching, motivation, example, habituation and enforcing rules as an effort to shape children's character based on religious values. This research shows that the effectiveness of the family's role is greatly influenced by internal factors such as parental attention, available time, and religious knowledge, as well as external factors such as the social environment and the influence of digital media. Even though many families realize the importance of their role, challenges such as busy parents and lack of supporting facilities often become obstacles in consistently instilling religious values. By strengthening the role of the family through targeted guidance and collaboration with the community and educational institutions, it is hoped that children can grow into a generation that has strong religious character, noble morals, and is able to face the challenges of modernization with a solid moral foundation..

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