

THE INFLUENCE OF SCHOOL SUBJECTS' COURSES TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN TPQ

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Abstract

This article tries to show that the existence of school subjects' courses in our society brings many effects. The widespread of school subjects' courses recently has influenced the public interest to TPQ. In addition, the high interest of the students to school subjects' courses also shows students and parents distrust towards formal education that is school. The focus of this study is to find out the people's reasons which prefer to engage their children to school subjects' courses than to the TPQ. The method of this research is qualitative method which uses library research by analyzing some literatures such as books and journal articles. The results of this study shows that the presence of many school subjects' courses makes the public interest in the TPQ decreased. There are many factors which influence the decline of public interest in TPQ. These factors include the more difficult of the subjects in school, the same of learning time of TPQ and school subjects' courses, the quality and quantity of teacher and institutional facilities.

Keywords: *school subjects' courses, TPQ, public interest*

Abstrak

PENGARUH LEMBAGA BIMBINGAN BELAJAR TERHADAP MINAT MASYARAKAT PADA TPQ. Tulisan ini berusaha menunjukkan bahwa keberadaan lembaga bimbingan belajar di masyarakat membawa banyak dampak. Maraknya lembaga bimbingan belajar saat ini telah mempengaruhi minat masyarakat terhadap TPQ. Di samping itu, tingginya minat siswa terhadap lembaga bimbingan belajar juga menunjukkan ketidakpercayaan siswa dan orang tua terhadap pendidikan formal yaitu sekolah. Fokus dari kajian ini adalah mencari tahu alasan masyarakat lebih memilih mengikutsertakan anaknya ke lembaga bimbingan belajar dibandingkan ke TPQ. Metode dari penelitian ini adalah metode kualitatif yang menggunakan studi kepustakaan dengan menelaah beberapa literatur antara lain buku-buku dan artikel-artikel jurnal. Hasil dari kajian ini menunjukkan bahwa keberadaan lembaga bimbingan belajar yang semakin banyak saat ini membuat minat masyarakat terhadap TPQ menjadi menurun. Terdapat banyak faktor yang mempengaruhi menurunnya minat masyarakat terhadap TPQ. Faktor tersebut meliputi semakin beratnya materi pelajaran di sekolah, waktu pembelajaran TPQ dan lembaga bimbingan belajar yang bersamaan, kualitas dan kuantitas pengajar dan fasilitas institusi.

Kata kunci: lembaga bimbingan belajar, TPQ, minat masyarakat

A. Introduction

Following a school subjects' course is indeed something quite positive for students who have less ability to comprehend the lessons in school. Previously, only students with low competencies who join the school subjects' courses. But now it's the opposite, the smartest student is he who joins the school subjects' courses. Not

only that, the rise of school subjects' courses currently attracts the public's attention. Nowadays not only difficult subjects which are taught in tutoring program but all subjects in school. Furthermore, not only high school students who follows the tutoring program but early childhood, kindergarten, and students of 1st and 2nd grade elementary school have also followed the program.

Now the existence of school subjects' courses are not only in big cities, but also in many villages. The managers of tutoring program competes to make an innovation in running and marketing their institutions. They offers a variety packages of learning program. There are some school subjects' courses which open the regular classes and some of them also open a private class. Various subjects are also offered for the students. Generally, these institutions offer tutoring program for; mathematics, chemistry, physics, Indonesian, English and learn Qur'an (for the Muslims). The rise of school subjects' program currently reaps many public controversies. Most of the people support in the presence of this institution, and partly reject the presence of it.

The high interest of students to join the tutoring program is a symbol of students and parents distrust towards the school. Therefore, schools must improve their work ability to the students to restore that trust. Teachers and schools must be able to correct the way they teach and serve the students. So they can provide an excellent education service so that the rights of students are not left behind.

The large number of school subjects' course at present does not only indicate the mistrust of students and parents to the school but also bring other impacts. The impact of many tutoring program is perceived by another non-formal educational institutions that is TPQ. TPQ loses many students because of this tutoring program. School subjects' course usually held in the afternoon until evening. It interferes the activity of students who study at TPQ. Since the students are burdened by the more difficult lessons in school, they prefer to follow tutoring program than TPQ.

The condition of schools (especially public schools) and

also TPQ is much different if we compare with school subjects' course. Neither fan nor air conditioner is available in the classroom. Computers are also almost not existent and teachers are not able to use technology. While school subjects' course is more innovative in the learning process. Education based on information technology had already been developed by the school subject course. Many of this institutions use computer, internet and multimedia. The mentor is also still fresh graduate. Therefore, students prefer studying in school subjects' course which provides air-conditioned rooms, qualified teachers, and computerized system.

Until now TPQ is underestimated by some people because the lessons are easy and can be learned at home. Education in TPQ is considered as a low-grade education (second class education) only. Parents send their children to TPQ is only as an activity for leisure. In addition, parents are reluctant to spend much money for the cost of studying in TPQ. Parents want a low cost to study at TPQ. Some of them want to study for free because they think that the lesson is only to learn the Qur'an. Only some parents are really aware of the importance of sending their children to TPQ. Its main purpose is that the children can read and write the Qur'an as their provisions in the Hereafter.

The public's impression of the education in TPQ has changed. Parents do not hesitate to spend lots of money to engage their children to join the tutoring program. While for engaging their children to the TPQ, parents ask the cheap cost. Parents want their children to be more proficient in science than in religion. They do not realize the importance of studying in TPQ. For them, everything which is related to school lessons is number one and the other is the second.

B. Non Formal Education

Education is basically divided into three types of formal education, non-formal education and informal education. Formal education is an education which is held in schools. This formal education has a clear educational levels, ranging from basic education (elementary), secondary education (junior and senior

high school) to higher education (university). Formal education is a systematic, structured, stratified, and hierarchical starting from primary school up to college including oriented studies activity on academic and general, specialization courses, and professional training (Elih Sudiapermana, 2011: 23).

Non-formal education is an education outside of formal education which is can be held structurally and gradually. Non-formal education is any organized and systematic activity, beyond the well-established school system, and conducted independently. Non-formal education are most numerous in early childhood and elementary education that is TPQ or Taman Pendidikan Al Quran held in many mosques. In addition, there are also a variety of courses, including music course, school subjects' course and so on.

Besides formal and non formal education, there are also informal education. Informal education is the path of family and environmental education. The learning activities are held independently, consciously, and responsibly. Informal education is the process that takes place in all ages so that everyone acquire values, attitudes, skills and knowledge that comes from the experience of everyday life, environmental influences including the influence of family life, relationships with neighbors, work environment, games, markets, libraries, and the mass media (Elih Sudiapermana, 2011: 23).

The emergence of non-formal education can be regarded as one of the government's efforts to improve the education in Indonesia. The presence of non-formal education is caused by the extensive educational needs, especially in developing countries. Non-formal education has functions as a substitute for, or complement for formal education in order to support long-life education. Non-formal education also has function to develop the potential of learners on the mastery of knowledge, functional skills and the attitude and personality developmental.

Non-formal education is considered to be able to provide educational activities that fulfill the students' needs and interests that cannot be fulfilled by the formal school. It is important to meet

the global demands in this modern era. In this paper, there are two institutions that became the subjects, those are school subjects' course and TPQ. Both are included in the non-formal education.

C. School Subjects' Course (Tutoring Program)

School subjects' course or tutoring program is a non-formal educational institution which is established with the aim to complete the formal education. In a tutoring program, educational packages usually are held for short periods only. Every educational program is a package of very specific subjects and usually provided to fulfill the students' needs. The requirements for registration are more flexible in terms both of age or level of ability and the subject matter is relatively more flexible.

At the beginning, school subjects' course is famous as an educational institution that specializes providing additional knowledge for third grader of high school who will take the entrance exam of State Universities (PTN). The emergence of tutoring program is also encouraged by the regulations regarding the entrance exam to the state universities and private universities in Indonesia. Recently, the tutoring program not only provides services for high school students but also intensive learning programs, regular and private courses for elementary school, junior high, and senior high school students for all classes.

The competition to enter State Universities is become harder so that the high school graduates must have the intellectual competency and high mental to be accepted in state college, especially a good and popular college. The high interest and motivation to graduate of high school students to enter the state college is due to several reasons. First, the state college quality is guaranteed. Second, the state college has a low-cost though some state colleges require a high-cost. Third, by studying in state college, students have a higher social status because entering the state college is not easy. To enter state college, a student should get rid of tens or even hundreds of other competitors to compete for the limited seats.

State college is desired by many people from the upper, middle and lower classes. For the upper class society, the high cost of college tuition is not a big problem. While for the middle and lower class society, entering the state college is an appropriate step to press the education expenses. Their hope to be able to enter state college is very high. Students who will register to the state college make special preparations to pass the entrance test which is called SPMB (Seleksi Penerimaan Mahasiswa Baru). Their preparations include attending tutoring to afford or be able to answer the exam questions correctly, although they had to get out more costs.

Students and parents are interested in tutoring program. For the students, this institution can energize the motivation to study. For parents, it is also very helpful. The parents who are very busy ask their children to join the program. Tutoring program is a best solution when the children are given a difficult school task and their parents can't guide them to finish it. The rise of many tutoring institutions become a trend in the society. Many parents ask their children to follow the tutoring program with the aim to pursue an achievement in school.

Tutoring program or school subjects' course is as an alternative method to help the learning process and improve learning achievement. The limitations of the school system is also influenced the growth of various tutoring program. The limited teachers' ability, lack of adequate learning facilities, as well as the demands of the curriculum caused the students seek an alternative learning outside of school. Schools are also considered unable to provide all the necessary needs of students.

D. Taman Pendidikan Al Qur'an (TPA/TPQ)

TPQ or Taman Pendidikan Al Qur'an is an educational institution to read and write the Qur'an among children. The purpose of the teaching is one of the aspects or components that must be considered in education, because education can be considered successful if these objectives can be achieved or at least approached the predetermined targets (Mansur, 2007: 67).

In other words, Taman Pendidikan Al - Qur'an is an institution or a place to learn, to read and write the Qur'an education. TPQ also teaches morality in students. The teaching of Qur'an emphasizes on how to make students able to read and write correctly, giving a habit to always read the Qur'an (tadarus), fluent in pronunciation, and understand punctuation (tajwid), as well as the teachings related to daily life.

Taman Pendidikan Al Qur'an (TPQ) is a non-formal education specifically designed to provide the teaching of Qur'an. The ability to read well and correctly is a target which is to be achieved by the students. The method of the teaching is easily accepted by students. So when they are learning the Qur'an they feel happy and comfortable. The purpose of the TPQ is to eradicate illiteracy of the Qur'an and being able to read properly. Besides that TPQ tries to grow a love feeling of the Qur'an and also prepare students to take the next religious education (madrasah).

From the explanation above, it can be seen that the objective of TPQ is to make the students having a Qur'ani personality with the characteristics as follows.

1. Love the Qur'an

Besides teaching how to read and write the Qur'an, TPQ also educates the students to love, cherish, and missed the Qur'an.

2. Commitment to the Qur'an

TPQ educates students become the generations who actualize the guidances in the Qur'an for themselves and their environment by applying the patience in facing all the intern and extern risks that arise.

3. Making the Qur'an as a way of life

TPQ educates the students become the generations who apply the Qur'an values in daily life as a benchmark (good/bad, right/wrong, the truth/falsehood) in everyday aspects of life such as social, political, economic, artistic, educational and etc (Ali Rohmad, 2009: 353).

TPQ has a very big role in building the spiritual society.

TPQ is as a medium of instruction for understanding the good and right religious life. In terms of the juridical there are some laws and regulations that directly or indirectly can be the foundation of the existence of TPQ, namely:

1. Pancasila
2. Undang-Undang Dasar 1945
3. Garis-Garis Besar Hukum Negara (GBHN)
4. Undang-Undang Nomor 2 Tahun 1989, Undang-Undang Nomor 20 Tahun 2003 on National Education System
5. Peraturan Pemerintah Nomor 73 Tahun 1991 on Education outside the school
6. Surat Keputusan Bersama Menteri Dalam Negeri dan Menteri Agama Nomor 128 Tahun 1982, Nomor 44a Tahun 1982 on Effort to Improve the Ability of Reading and Writing Al-Qur'an for Muslims in order to Enhance the Appreciation and Experience of AlQur'an in everyday life.
7. Instruksi Menteri Agama Nomor 3 Tahun 1990 on the Implementation of Measures to Improve Reading and Writing Ability of the Qur'an. (Ali Rohmad, 2009: 353).

E. The Influence of School Subjects' Course to the Public Interest in TPQ

Interest is something that is very important in determining a success in many ways, especially in terms of learning. Interest is the tendency of clients to be interested in a particular activity. Typical interest is the potential that support individual behavior (Ali Rohmad, 2009: 353).

Interest is one of the main things that must be owned by a person in trying to achieve of a goal. But sometimes the interests which are owned by a person less than the maximum so that the process of achieving goals less than what he expected. The process of learning in educational institution does too. Therefore, each students is required to have a high interest in order to achieve the expected learning achievement (Mohammad Asrori, 2007: 125).

The existence of school subjects' course has influenced the public interest in the TPQ. In the afternoons when it is the time for the children to go to TPQ, they are busy with their school assignments. Nowadays, the students' lessons at school are increasingly difficult. This condition makes the students seek additional education outside the school. As the effect, they forget even sacrifice their study time in TPQ which takes place in the afternoon also. These conditions are not entirely from the desire of the child but the parents are more concerned about the education of children in school. Parents are vying to enroll their children to a tutoring program. Moreover, parents more prioritize their children to attend the courses than learning in TPQ. The role of a tutoring program suddenly become very important. Thus, a tutoring program has been widespread in various areas.

The proliferation of these institutions become a trend in the society especially for students and their parents. Many parents ask their children to follow the tutoring program with the aim to pursue an achievement in school. Some of the reasons students and parents about choosing a tutoring program as a solution to the problem of learning difficulties are as follows.

1. the students' distrust of teachers' ability at school
2. many opinions appear among the students and parents that:
 - a. School subjects' course is a professional institution to make students excel in school and be able to prepare students entering the State University.
 - b. tutoring program is able to give learning motivation to students so that students can excel in their school.
 - c. tutoring program is a problem solving for students
3. Convenience in learning.
4. Having a new friend so that students can extend social skills.
5. Knowing the courses teachers who are generally proficient in teaching.
6. Filling the students' leisure time by joining the tutoring

program to deepen the material taught in school

Based on the explanation above, the tutoring institution is a non-formal educational institution preferred by the public than TPQ because this institution further support the education in schools. The society especially the parents prefer the education which supports the school lessons than education in TPQ.

F. Factors of the decreasing public interest in TPQ

TPQ is still underestimated by most of people because it does not promise a well-established life in the future. Education in TPQ is considered as a low-grade education (second class education) only. Parents send their children to TPQ only as an activity to fill the leisure time and does not interfere the learning activity in formal school. In addition, parents are reluctant to spend much money for the tuition of studying in TPQ. Parents want a low cost to study at TPQ even some of them want a free-cost because they think the lesson is only to learn the Qur'an. Only some parents are really aware of the importance of sending their children to TPQ. Their main purpose is to make their children can read and write the Qur'an because it is as their provision in the Hereafter.

Some Muslims are underestimated in the education of TPQ moreover those who are non-Muslims. The people's impression of the education in TPQ is decreased and considered less popular or less trend. There are many factors that cause a decline in public interest to the TPQ. These factors are largely associated with the widespread of school subjects' courses today. There are five factors which are explained as follows.

1. Parents or children prefer tutoring program than TPQ

Nowadays both parents and children tend to be more interested to study in the courses to support the lessons in school than learning in TPQ. Generally, learning in the courses is held in the afternoon until evening. Therefore, studying in TPQ always defeated for the sake of learning in courses. So, TPQ loses many of its students who are joining the tutoring program.

2. The courses provide many programs

Tutoring program is not only provide one program but the assortment. Almost all subjects in school are taught well in the courses. Besides both the elementary and high school subjects, tutoring program also provides programs for reading, writing and counting for young children. Furthermore, there are some courses which provide literacy program of Qur'an. Therefore, people are more likely to choose the tutoring program than TPQ because tutoring program is more complete.

3. More teachers in school subjects' courses

TPQ is usually known by the society with the low-cost learning. It is adapted to the capabilities and desires of the society. If TPQ has a high tuition, the parents will be reluctant to register their children to TPQ. Actually, this low-cost gives an impact on the quality and quantity of teachers in the TPQ. TPQ teachers will only get a small salary. In the end, many teachers of TPQ who eventually resigned because the salary of teaching cannot be used as a primary income to fulfill the daily needs. Thus, there are only a few teachers who are consistently teaching in TPQ without regarding the salary.

Different with the tutoring program, there are a lot of teachers in this institution. Because the cost of studying in tutoring program is quite expensive, the welfare courses' teacher was reasonably assured. The number of these qualified teachers attracts the parents to engage their children learn at this institution.

4. The facilities in tutoring program is more adequate

Besides the teachers, the school subjects' courses is also superior than TPQ in terms of facilities. In TPQ, the instructional media used is usually just a blackboard and chalk or markers. The students learn in the classroom or on the porch of the mosque. While tutoring program has a wide range of facilities including the comfortable and air-

conditioned classrooms, LCD projectors, computers, and so on.

5. Joining the courses because of trend

The learning activity in TPQ has been held since a long time ago and continues until today. People are also very familiar with this institution. While tutoring program is a new institution known by the society over than 10 years. Tutoring program is getting very popular last few years. Many students register and join in this institution. Some of them follow the courses because they wanted to excel in school. But many of them follow the courses because they imitate their friends since tutoring program is becoming a trend.

The education in TPQ and school subjects' course should be conducted together. As a non-formal education, both TPQ and school subjects' course is very important for the students. The students can improve their knowledge about science as well as religion. Parents should supports their children also to join these two institutions. They can suggest their children to have tutoring program in the evening and TPQ in the afternoon. So, the children can get the benefits of these institutions.

G. Conclusion

School subjects' courses and TPQ are included into non-formal education. Both of these institutions has a function as an additional education of formal education. The existence of school subjects recently gives an effect or influence on the public interest in TPQ. Generally, learning in the courses is held in the afternoon until evening. This condition causes the learning process in TPQ which are usually held in the afternoon is disturbed. The more difficult of school lessons currently makes the students compelled to follow the courses. The students who are usually study in TPQ in the afternoons ultimately prefer the courses.

Besides the difficulty of the subject matter in school lately, there are many other factors that affect the community (parents and

children) prefer tutoring program than TPQ. The public interest is decreased to the TPQ because tutoring program provides various programs not only school subjects, but also literacy of Qur'an. Both the facilities and teachers at tutoring program is more adequate than TPQ.

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