

# The Leadership Style of School Principal in Developing Religious Character of Students at Nurul Madinah Islamic Junior High School

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**Abstract:** *This research aims to understand and evaluate the leadership style of school principals in building the religious character of students at Nurul Madinah Pelulan Islamic Middle School, Kuripan District, West Lombok Regency. Explain the religious character implemented at Nurul Madinah Pelulan Islamic Middle School, Kuripan District, West Lombok Regency. This study applies a qualitative approach by utilizing a variety of data collection methods including interviews, documentation, observation, and field surveys. Data analysis is carried out using data triangulation techniques, where researchers will carry out data reduction, data verification, and conclusion. The results of this research reveal that the leadership style of the Principal of Nurul Madinah Pelulan Islamic Middle School, Kuripan District, West Lombok Regency uses a democratic leadership style which can be seen from the process of giving awards to teachers who are dedicated and show good examples through daily practices at school to building the religious character of students. This includes the development of religious character. instilled at Nurul Madinah Islamic Middle School, including performing duba, dalail, and wirid prayers, reading and memorizing the Al-Qur'an.*

**Keywords:** *Leadership Style; Religious Character; Nurul Madinah Islamic Junior High School*

## INTRODUCTION

Education is a deliberate effort to conduct the teaching and learning process, enabling students to actively develop their potential (Hasibuan & Yahya, 2022). The primary goal is for them to possess strength, self-control, religiosity, spirituality, intelligence, and skills that are beneficial for themselves, society, the nation, and the country. The quality of education is one of the aspirations for all elements of the Indonesian nation, as mandated by the 1945 Constitution in the fourth paragraph, which emphasizes the importance of enlightening the life of the nation (Umrati & Wijaya, 2020). To achieve this aspiration, various educational programs are implemented with the hope of improving the quality of the education system in Indonesia. The primary goal is to ensure that they possess strength, self-control, religiosity, spirituality,

intelligence, and skills that are beneficial for themselves, society, the nation, and the country.

Quality education refers to high-standard education produced by leadership with superior moral character in the madrasa. Superior moral character in the madrasa is professional moral character that can guide and control moral aspects comprehensively (fundamentally) so they can develop well, enabling the madrasa to fulfill its very important and strategic role (Gunawan, 2016). To achieve all these goals, good management is essential, which can only be carried out by the madrasa's leader, namely the principal. The principal plays a crucial role; therefore, a well-directed leadership style is very important (Hasanah, 2017).

The principal's leadership style is a form of leadership demonstrated by the principal in implementing policies. There are many types of principal leadership styles, and they are closely related to the leadership system that will be applied (Kholis, 2022). The leadership styles include democratic, transformational, adaptive, transparent, flexible and others (Nurhamidah & Nugraha, 2023). In this study, the researcher will examine the democratic leadership style. This is because this leadership style is very effective in developing students. The democratic leadership style is excellent in fostering religious character in students.

Religious character is crucial to be taught to children from an early age because religious values form the foundation of individuals' lives and society, nation, and country, especially in Indonesia, which is a religious society with religious guidelines that determine right and wrong (Gunawan, 2016). Religious character is not only related to the vertical relationship between humans and God but also the horizontal relationship between humans and each other (Prof. Dr. Suriani, S.H., 2016). This character always directs all aspects of life towards religious principles, making religion a guide in all behaviors, attitudes, and expressions. This includes obedience to God's commands and avoidance of His prohibitions. Indicators of religious character in this study include attitudes of peace, tolerance, respecting religious differences, cooperation, consistency, self-confidence, rejection of violence or oppression, sincerity, concern for the environment, and protection of the weak and marginalized (Prof. Dr. Suriani, S.H., 2016). Therefore, the formation of religious character is very important, and a school principal, through democratic leadership, can realize it.

Based on the explanations above, the researcher feels it is very important to continue this research entitled *The Leadership Style of School Principal in Developing Religious Character of Students at Nurul Madinah Islamic Junior High School*.

## RESEARCH METHOD

In accordance with the issue being focused on in this study, titled “The Leadership Style Of A Principal At Nurul Madinah Islamic Junior High School Pelulan, Kuripan, West Lombok In Building Students' Religious Character”. This research adopts a descriptive approach, which describes the situation using words to depict the types or conditions present at the time of the study and investigates the causes of a particular phenomenon (Umrati & Wijaya, 2020). The researcher directly visited the research location to collect accurate and objective data (Ikhwanuddin, 2020). This research method adopts a qualitative descriptive approach, which involves providing accurate descriptions of the situation based on relevant information techniques and analysis (Muh Ibnu Sholeh, 2023).

Data collection methods include in-depth interviews used to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the informant's views on an issue, with a focus on the interview process (Umrati & Wijaya, 2020). Observation and documentation are also utilized as data collection techniques to complement the required information.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The religious character applied at Nurul Madinah Islamic Junior High School Pelulan, Kuripan Subdistrict, West Lombok Regency. To achieve educational goals such as religious character, solid cooperation between families, schools, and communities is needed (Safitri et al., 2022). Information obtained by the researcher from interactions with the principal of Nurul Madinah Islamic Junior High School Pelulan, Kuripan, West Lombok, in building students' religious character includes the following actions consistently carried out by the principal and all teachers at Nurul Madinah Islamic Junior High School.

Several aspects of character development can occur through continuous practice in daily life, such as honesty, religiosity, tolerance, cooperation, helpfulness, and others (Gunawan, 2016). This habituation process not only focuses on the aspect of knowledge but, more essentially, on how far the implementation of these habits is in daily life, thus becoming an integral part of one's character (Prof. Dr. Suriani, S.H., 2016). Al-Ghazali believes that character formation can be achieved through educational training. This view is in line with the results of our interview with the principal at Nurul Madinah Islamic Junior High School Pelulan, where the following actions have been taken:

“Performing Duha prayer, Dalail and Wirid, Reading the Qur'an, Tahfiz, Learning activities, On Sundays, students can be given a cellphone to consult with parents who are far away.” These

interactions are also supported by findings from conversations with Ust. Riadi, a Tahfiz Quran teacher, who mentioned that the habituation in the afternoon after Asr prayer includes studying Tahfiz and religious books.



Figure 1. Interview with the school principal

Figure 2. Class Schedule

Figure 3. Religious Studies

KELAS	KELOMPOK	KEMUKA
IX/1A/1	Muslimah, Nurulhidayah, S.P.P.	Muslimah, Nurulhidayah, S.P.P.
IX/1B/1	Edrisyanti, S.P.P.	Muslimah, Nurulhidayah, S.P.P.

**Figure 4. Cleaning Duty Schedule**

As for the explanation related to the religious character applied there, it includes: Dhuha prayer has various benefits that go beyond merely opening the door to sustenance (Hasibuan & Yahya, 2022). Here are some of its benefits: Opening the Door to Sustenance. Dhuha prayer is considered as opening the door to sustenance for those who perform it regularly. The Prophet Muhammad SAW advised his followers to perform Dhuha prayer before starting their activities, as it is considered the beginning of success in their endeavors.

- a. Receiving Rewards in the Afternoon. Hadith states that performing Dhuha prayer can fulfill a person's needs in the afternoon.
- b. Protection from Satan's Whisperings to Commit Sins. Those who consistently perform Dhuha prayer will be protected from the temptations and negative influences of Satan.
- c. Replacing Charity for Every Joint. Every joint in the human body is obliged to give charity, according to religious teachings.
- d. Reward Equal to Hajj and Umrah Worship. Consistently performing Dhuha prayer can provide rewards equivalent to those who perform the Hajj and Umrah pilgrimage.
- e. Building a House in Paradise. Those who regularly perform Dhuha prayer will receive the construction of a house in paradise.
- f. Obtaining Forgiveness for Sins. Dhuha prayer can serve as a form of repentance and obtain forgiveness from Allah SWT.
- g. Healing Diseases. Performing Dhuha prayer when the sun begins to rise can bring various health benefits, including healing from various diseases.
- h. Gaining Great Rewards from Allah. Performing Dhuha prayer can also bring great rewards from Allah SWT.

Based on the explanations above, the benefits of Dhuha prayer are very good. This is in line with the character education conducted at Nurul Madinah Islamic Junior High School Pelulan. Dhuha prayer becomes a mandatory activity after the Fajr prayer and the morning assembly, then students prepare themselves by taking a bath. After that, students perform Dhuha prayer before starting their learning activities. This has been implemented since the beginning to become a habit that can shape the character of the students in the future.

a. Wirid Dalailul Khaerat

The Virtues of Dalailul Khairat. Among the students, Wirid Dalailul Khairat is one of the famous wirid. Generally, this wirid is taught through an ijazah process, where the practice or recitation is passed down through generations with a clear chain of transmission. The teacher who grants the ijazah is known as the mu'jiz. During the ijazah process, the chain of transmission of the Dalailul Khairat wirid is usually included sequentially, connected to its compiler, Sheikh Muhammad bin Sulaiman al-Jazuli (w. 872 H) He is the figure who compiled the Wirid Dalailul Khairat. He was a scholar from Morocco, and he compiled this wirid during his scholarly journey in the city of Fez. For 14 years, he secluded himself for worship (khalwat), and then he focused on educating paraphrase: "people who learn from him". Many repented because of him, so he was known as a scholar who had various miracles. Sheikh Muhammad bin Sulaiman al-Jazuli also had many followers spread across various regions of Morocco. The uniqueness in practicing Wirid Dalailul Khairat, which is very popular among its practitioners, is the quick fulfillment of various desires hoped for by its readers (Wahyono, 2019). However, practitioners of Wirid Dalailul Khairat are advised to recite it with sincere intentions and to draw closer to Allah without expecting worldly rewards.

Based on the explanation above that the recitation of Wirid Dalailur Khairat at Nurul Madinah Islamic Junior High School is very good to be developed considering its numerous virtues, this has become a routine activity for students before starting their learning activities. This habit is also expected to become an inseparable part in creating character education for students at the institution.

b. Tahfizh

The special qualities of memorizing the Qur'an include: 1) Becoming a member of Allah SWT's family; 2) Having the ability to intercede for family members; 3) Those who memorize the Qur'an will be bestowed with the crown of honor; 4) Parents will receive special rewards if their children memorize the Qur'an; 5) Especially men have a greater right to lead the

prayer. The urgency of tahfiz learning in the 5.0 era is as follows: 1) Preserving the Qur'an, practicing it, and paying attention to its messages as guidance and learning for mankind in worldly life; 2) Following the religious laws found in the Qur'an; 3) Attaining Allah's pleasure by adhering to true beliefs and obeying all His commands; 4) Cultivating noble behavior by learning from and emulating the stories found in the Qur'an; 5) Increasing religious awareness in the heart and developing it, thereby strengthening faith and deepening the relationship with Allah.

Based on the above phenomenon, it is very important to introduce tahfiz to students as early as possible. This has become a mandatory activity at Nurul Madinah Islamic Junior High School, where every Wednesday and Saturday students recite their memorization to their teachers. This practice is hoped to become an integral part of the students' character in that environment.

- a. The leadership style of the school principal in building the religious character of students at Nurul Madinah Islamic Junior High School Pelulan, Kuripan Subdistrict, West Lombok Regency.
- b. The explanation regarding the leadership style of the principal at Nurul Madinah Islamic Junior High School is that the principal of Nurul Madinah Islamic Junior High School Pelulan applies a democratic leadership style with characteristics such as the following:
- c. This leadership style is characterized by giving few instructions but providing high support to team members. (Marisana et al., 2023). Leaders provide more assistance and support rather than giving direct instructions to team members. (Juhro & Ridwan, 2021). Decisions are made through active participation to achieve consensus. Team members are actively involved in the decision-making process and play a crucial role in determining the final outcome.
- d. Discussions are more open to suggestions, ideas, and criticism, with the leader acting as a good listener for team members. (Efendi & Sholeh, 2023). The relationship between the leader and subordinates is enhanced through two-way communication that combines both top-down and bottom-up approaches. (Novianti et al., 2016). This leadership style is closer to democratic principles.

Based on the explanation above, what the principal of Nurul Madinah Islamic Junior High School Pelulan does is always to hold deliberations in every meeting with all teachers. Teachers are given the space to provide suggestions and inputs during the meeting, and even if in the end it is the principal who decides the meeting outcomes. and report the results to the foundation. This is

one form of democratic leadership character that has been and always been implemented at Nurul Madinah Islamic Junior High School Pelulan.

a. Encouraging participation and involvement

Encouraging participation and involvement of all team members in decision-making is one characteristic of democratic leadership. A leader who involves team members in the decision-making process encompasses various aspects such as consultation, joint decision-making, power distribution, and implementation of democratic management (Nurhamidah & Nugraha, 2023). Based on the explanation above, what the principal of Nurul Madinah Islamic Junior High School does is to continue to encourage and provide space for teachers to be directly involved in every decision made so that the outcome is a joint decision based on input and suggestions from all team members or teachers.

b. Appreciating ideas and creativity

Here, there is an exchange of ideas and creativity is encouraged freely without fear of judgment, as discussions are highly encouraged. The leader's role is to provide direction and manage the deliberation process. The leader also has the responsibility to determine the contribution of each group member in decision-making (Wahyono, 2019). Nevertheless, this does not indicate that all decisions must be made collectively. Based on individual roles and responsibilities, the final decision remains the prerogative of the leader.

Based on the explanation above, valuing ideas and creativity within an institution is crucial. This is also practiced by the principal at Nurul Madinah Islamic Junior High School Pelulan by valuing the ideas and creativity of every teacher or team member in providing suggestions, ideas, and opinions during deliberations or meetings.

## CONCLUSION

Nurul Madinah Islamic Junior High School Pelulan has built religious character by instilling attitudes such as performing the Duha prayer, reciting Wirid Dalailul Khaerat, and reading and memorizing the Qur'an. The leadership style of the principal of Nurul Madinah Islamic Junior High School in realizing religious character values is by using a democratic leadership style, which can be seen from the process of appreciating dedicated teachers and providing good examples through daily activities at school as part of efforts to build students' religious character. Alhamdulillah, we would like to express our gratitude to the Chairman of Nurul Madinah Foundation, the Principal of Islamic School Nurul Madinah Pelulan, Kuripan Sub-district, West Lombok Regency, Prof. Dr. Iwan



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