



Strategies and policies for handling children dropping out of school at primary and secondary education levels in Mamuju Regency: an Islamic economic perspective

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ABSTRACT

The handling of school dropouts is an important issue in the context of education and community development. Mamuju District, as a region in Indonesia, faces serious challenges related to dropout rates at the primary and secondary education levels. This study aims to analyze strategies and policies that can be applied in handling school dropouts in Mamuju Regency, taking into account the perspective of Islamic economics. In the perspective of Islamic economics, the handling of school dropouts must involve a holistic and sustainable approach. Recommended strategies include 1. Provision of financial assistance: Local governments and philanthropic institutions can provide financial assistance to families experiencing economic difficulties to finance their children's education. This assistance can be in the form of scholarships, tuition fees, or poverty alleviation programs. 2. Development of entrepreneurship: In the context of the Islamic economy, entrepreneurship development is expected to provide employment and income opportunities for school dropouts. The government and educational institutions can provide training and assistance to develop entrepreneurial skills. 3. Strengthening the local economy: Encouraging local economic growth can create job opportunities for out-of-school children. Local governments can encourage investment in local economic sectors and provide incentives for businesses. 4. Islamic values-based education: Education that integrates Islamic values in the curriculum can provide a holistic understanding and empower children to become productive members of society. This includes teaching about Islamic business ethics and social responsibility. 5. Development of social programs: The Islamic economic approach also advocates the development of social programs aimed at increasing educational accessibility, providing psychosocial support to out-of-school children, and preventing factors that predispose to dropping out of school.

Keywords: Handling of school dropouts; zakat, endowments, and social justice; Islamic economics

1. INTRODUCTION

In the current era of globalization, a person must equip themselves with knowledge in order to be able to compete and defend themselves from the increasingly harsh world of life and from the various challenges that they inevitably have to face. Society's demands are increasingly complex and competition is increasingly fierce, for this reason it is necessary to prepare quality human resources. One effort to improve human resources is through education.

Law Number 20 of 2003 states that education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have religious spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble morals, and skills needed by himself, society, nation and state. Education is one of the basic human needs that must be fulfilled, and has a high goal, not just to stay alive, but more than that, to make humans much more honorable and have a higher position.

The aim of national education based on this law is that "national education aims to develop the potential of students to become human beings who have faith and devotion to God Almighty, have noble character, are healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent and become democratic citizens. and be responsible". It is further explained in Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System, article 7 paragraph 2 that "parents of children of compulsory school age are obliged to provide basic education to their children".

Education is a basic human need that is needed to be able to develop one's potential and have the skills needed to improve the quality of one's life. Education is a way to break the chain of poverty. With quality human resources through education, productivity will increase and become a way to earn income. With a high income, it is possible for an individual to save and invest.

Education changes all the time, therefore education does not know the end or is lifelong education. Education aims to produce individuals who are highly knowledgeable, broad-minded and have noble character. Education is a series of processes carried out by a country in order to prepare the quality of human resources needed for development.

Educational success is a shared responsibility between the family (parents), community members and the government. The family is the first social institution known to children and in this family attitudes can be instilled that can influence the child's subsequent development. The family is responsible for providing funds for the child's educational needs. Families (parents) with a high socio-economic situation will not experience much difficulty in meeting their children's school needs, in contrast to parents with a low socio-economic situation.

The high number of children dropping out of school in Mamuju Regency is influenced by many factors such as: social factors, economic factors, geographical factors and demographic factors. This geographical factor can be in the form of distance from

residence to school and socio-economic factors can be in the form of parents' type of work, number of family dependents, parents' educational background, and income level. Apart from that, it can also be influenced by the productive activities of children in the household.

2. METHODS

This research is qualitative research, namely research carried out in Kab. Mamuju Province West Sulawesi with the chosen object being Out of School Children (APS) at primary and secondary education levels with the consideration that these two levels of education have the most number of children dropping out of school.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Concept and Importance of Education

Education is a means of increasing human intelligence and skills. Education plays a central role in the development of the nation and state, because from there the intelligence and abilities and even the character of the nation in the future are largely determined by the education provided today. Education plays a role as a basis in forming human qualities that have competitiveness and the ability to absorb technology which will increase productivity. This means that the condition of community education reflects the quality of resources that support the accelerated pace of development in general.

Education is the main indicator of development and the quality of human resources, so the quality of human resources is very dependent on the quality of education. Education is a very important and strategic field in national development because it determines the progress of a nation. Education is in fact the most effective means of improving the quality of life and welfare of society, and can lead the nation to achieve prosperity. So education is an effort to guide children.

This understanding means that education is an activity to guide human children towards maturity and independence. This is done to equip children to navigate life in the future. So it can be said that the implementation of education cannot be separated from a human and humanitarian perspective.

Etymologically, the word education comes from the basic word "didik" which has the prefix and suffix pe-an. Turned into a verb to educate, which means helping children to master various knowledge, skills, attitudes and values inherited from family and society. The term education comes from the Greek, namely pedagogie, which means guidance given to children, and pedagogia is association with children. This term was then translated into English with education which means development. Educational psychology is a systematic study of the processes and factors related to human education. Education is influence, assistance is provided by people who are responsible for students. Next are educational tasks and functions and educational intentions or goals.

Education is an important need that must be fulfilled, because with education a person can improve his standard of living. The level of education of parents will influence the income they receive, besides that the level of education will also influence the level of education of their children. Education is a powerful tool for lifting people from failure, including poverty, through education, apart from gaining intelligence in the form of thinking skills, people also gain new insights that can help efforts to improve their dignity in life. Low education causes poor families and must be willing to accept work that is low both in terms of wages and type of work. Meanwhile, according to Amos Neolaka, formal education is education at school that takes place regularly and in stages following clear and strict requirements. The goal of educators is to enrich character, knowledge and to prepare someone to be capable and skilled in a particular field of work.

B. The concept of dropping out of school and children dropping out of school

1. The concept of dropping out of school

Dropouts or dropouts are those who are forced to stop school prematurely. Sadiyah and Suripno stated that dropping out of school is leaving school before completing the entire study period determined by the school concerned. According to Ahmad, what is meant by dropping out of school is that a student stops studying either in the middle of the school year or at the end of the school year due to various reasons that require or force him to stop going to school. This means dropping out of school for all children who do not complete their education. The issue of education is so important that in one instance it was narrated by Ibn Majah that: *Thalabul ilmi faridatan ala kulli muslimin* (meaning: "Seeking knowledge is an obligation for every Muslim, HR. Ibn Majah).

This hadith firmly emphasizes the importance of seeking knowledge, because education is mandatory for every Muslim. Therefore, there is no reason not to go to school or drop out of school, and for a Muslim, studying is a guarantee, both a guarantee of recognition in the world and a guarantee in the afterlife.

The problem of dropping out of school is still a very worrying problem in various regions in Indonesia, because the number is very high and until now it has not been resolved optimally. Chornelis defines school dropouts as students who are unable to complete their studies because they are unable to complete their studies because they are not able to complete their studies, because they are expelled and are indeed unable to do so.¹

Meanwhile, Gunawan stated that dropping out of school is a predicate given to former students who were unable to complete a level of education, so they were unable to continue to the next level of education. Then Abd. Rahman stated that dropping out of school, which is often called dropping out, is an event that occurs to a person or

¹Chornelis. *Penggunaan Jaring Sosial Bagi Rakyat Miskin* (Jakarta: Cidek, 2008), h. 123.

student, so that they do not have time to achieve what they aspire to or fall or stop in the middle of the road.²

2. Children dropping out of school

Children are a gift, gift and trust from Allah SWT. Children entrusted as a result of marriage must be looked after, guided and nurtured by parents. Children are also the next generation and the dreams of their parents. So parents have full responsibility for the child's condition and condition.³ Parents can provide the facilities and needs that children need to achieve their dreams. The child's needs include meeting the child's school needs, taking part in tutoring if deemed necessary for the child. Parents also have the duty to provide input, direction and guidance on the choices their children have made.⁴

Children dropping out of school is a situation where children experience neglect due to the attitudes and treatment of parents who do not give proper attention to the child's growth and development process without paying attention to the child's rights to receive a proper education. This means children who do not continue school before graduating from 9 (nine) years of school (primary school, advanced). Furthermore, MC Millen Kaufman, and Whitener, 1996 in Nasir defines school dropouts are students who cannot complete their learning program before the time is complete or students who do not complete their learning program.⁵

Children who drop out of school are the condition of children who experience failure in attending school so that children stop going to school prematurely. Out-of-school children are children who have been enrolled in elementary, middle and high school but have not finished school. Dropouts are a condition where children have been declared out of school before the child has been declared graduated by the school, so that they do not receive a diploma from school and are unable to continue their education to the next level.⁶

The phenomenon of dropping out of school is a social problem that needs attention. Where this is a situation where educational activities for school-aged children, whether formal education or informal education, stop before they gain a certain amount of knowledge and skills that can become capital for life in society. So many people have a negative stigma regarding the presence of children who have dropped out of school.⁷

²Abd. Rahman. *Pengolaan Pengajaran* (Ujung Pandang: Bintang Selatan, 2018), h. 64.

³Fatah Yasin. *Dimensi-dimensi Pendidikan Islam* (Malang: Sukses Offset, 2018), h. 206.

⁴Sri Lestari. *Psikologi Keluarga (Penanaman Nilai dan Penanganan Konflik dalam Keluarga)* (Jakarta: Prenadamedia Grup, 2014), h. 153.

⁵H. Sahilun A. Nasir. *Peranan Pendidikan Agama terhadap Pemecahan Problem Remaja* (Cet. I, Jakarta: Kalam Mulia, 2019), h. 5.

⁶Ali Imron. *Managemen Peserta Didik Berbasis Sekolah* (Malang: Departemen Pendidik-an Nasional, 2004), h. 125.

⁷Muhammad Rifai. *Sosiologi Pendidikan* (Jogjakarta: Ar-Ruzz Media, 2016), h. 29.

C. Educational Rights of School Dropout Children

Education is a very fundamental right for children. Rights must be fulfilled with the cooperation of at least the students' parents, educational institutions and the government. Education will be able to be realized if all components, including: parents, community institutions, education and the government are willing to support the implementation of education.

The right of citizens to receive education is guaranteed by the 1945 Constitution, article 31 paragraph 1. This right is utilized by the Indonesian people with the long-term aim of developing this nation. Because the aim of education is to educate people cognitively and affectively, if people are intelligent then this nation will progress. The objectives of education have been regulated in Law no. 20 of 2003 concerning the national education system, which reads:

National Education functions to develop abilities and shape the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to educate the life of the nation, aiming to develop the potential of students to become human beings who believe in and are devoted to God Almighty, have noble character, are healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and become democratic and responsible citizens.

Education is the responsibility of all parties, not just the school's responsibility. Consequently, all citizens have a moral obligation to save education. So when there are members of society who cannot go to school just because they don't have money, then people who are rich or relatively prosperous have a moral obligation to become foster parents for the school continuity of children who drop out of school. With education, human resources will increase. Therefore, education cannot be separated from the learning process.

Education starts from the family. This paradigm is important for all parents to have to shape the future human character of this nation. Family is the first and foremost environment felt by a child, even when he is still in the womb. Therefore, education in the family that is enlightening and capable of forming pious and creative children's character is an important asset for children's success in the future.⁸

According to BPS, the main causes of children dropping out of school are parents' lack of awareness of the importance of children's education, economic limitations and lack of funds, unfavorable geographic conditions, limited access to school, because schools are far away or lack of educational facilities. Slameto stated that many elementary school students dropped out of school due to several factors, namely: 1) low economic capabilities including the exploitation of children as child laborers by people to help earn

⁸Y. Singgih D. Gunarsa. *Psikologi Membimbing*, Cet. 9 (Jakarta: PT Gunung Mulia, 2000), h. 113.

a living for the family; and 2) low understanding of the importance of education and lack of motivational support from the family.⁹

D. Causes of Children Dropping Out of School

Children can drop out of school for reasons related to school, economic factors, family, peers and personal problems. Many children or students leave school and then work to provide support to their families. Socioeconomic status is the main factor in family background which is closely related to a child or student dropping out of school. Children or students who have families from a low economic class have a higher tendency to drop out of school compared to families from a middle economic class. Most teenagers who drop out of school have friends who also dropped out of school. In addition, students who drop out of school get lower grades in school, have more problems with disciplinary rules, are less diligent in doing homework, have low self-confidence, have low educational expectations, and have external self-control. Furthermore, according to Rifa'i, the reason behind children dropping out of school is an economic problem, because parents are unable to pay for their children to continue school, while their economic capacity is only able to meet their daily living needs.

The reason why students do not continue school is the influence of the parents' low level of education and also the type of work that does not cover the economy. If parents have higher education, this will have an impact on their children's better education. Furthermore, Yohana Devi Wardani, et al. Suggests that several factors cause children to drop out of school at the elementary school (SD) and junior high school (SMP) education levels, namely: 1. Social conditions of parents. 2. Economic conditions of parents. 3. Motivation. 4 Environment

E. Handling School Dropout Children

Education is basically a series of activities carried out consciously aimed at developing personality and abilities both carried out in school and outside school. All citizens have the right to receive equal treatment without exception. Addressing the occurrence of teenagers dropping out of school requires various preventative efforts from an early age, carried out by parents, community leaders and the government, so that dropping out of school is kept to a minimum. Therefore, parents and community leaders play an important role in efforts to prevent teenagers from dropping out of school. Hasbullah explained that the basics of parental responsibility in their children's education include the following, the motivation and encouragement of love that animates the relationship between parents and children. Sincere and pure parental love will encourage attitudes and actions that are willing to accept responsibility for sacrificing their lives in providing help to their children, providing motivation for moral obligations as a consequence of the position of parents towards their offspring, social responsibility is part of the family which in turn will become responsibility of society, nation and state, to

⁹Slameto. *Belajardan Faktor-Faktor yang Mempengaruhinya*(Jakarta:Rineka Cipta, 2019), h. 15.

care for and raise children.¹⁰ This responsibility is a natural impulse to carry out, because children need food, drink and care, so that they can live sustainably and provide education with various knowledge and skills that are useful for the child's future life, so that when they grow up they will be able to be independent. Efforts to overcome the occurrence of children dropping out of school include raising parents' awareness of the importance of children's education, providing encouragement and assistance to children in learning, supervise children at home and provide motivation to children so that children are diligent in studying and do not make children bored when doing the homework given by school, do not let children work to earn money during the study period, and do not spoil children by giving too much pocket money.

Eipstein in Santrock states that parental involvement in the child's learning process is something that is absolute, because: 1) Families have a basic obligation to provide for the safety and health of their children. Many parents do not have sufficient knowledge about the age-appropriate changes that characterize adolescents. School-family programs can help to teach parents about the normal developmental stages of their adolescent children; 2) Schools have a basic obligation to communicate with families regarding school programs and the individual development of their teenagers. Teachers and parents rarely get to know each other in the years they attend secondary school. Programs are needed that can facilitate direct and more personal communication between parents and teachers; 3) Parental involvement in schools must be increased. Parents and other family members can help teachers in their classrooms in various ways, for example tutoring, teaching certain skills, helping with administrative and supervisory activities; 4) Parental involvement in teenagers' learning activities at home must be further increased. Secondary schools often highlight the importance of parents' skills and abilities in helping teenagers with their assignments or homework; and 5) Parents must be involved more often in decision making at school. Parent-teacher associations are the most common way in which parents can be involved in school decision-making.¹¹

CONCLUSION

The data that has been reduced and presented is then concluded. Drawing conclusions is a complete configuration activity and continues to be verified throughout the research. Verification is carried out by reviewing the researcher's initial thoughts, reviewing and re-selecting field notes and discussing research findings with informants.

¹⁰Hasbullah. *Dasar-Dasar Ilmu Pendidikan*. Edisi Revisi,(Jakarta: PT Raja Grafindo Persada, 2021), h. 44-45.

¹¹W. Santrock, John. *Adolescence (Perkembangan Remaja)* (Jakarta: Erlangga, 2013), h. 271-273.

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