



The Strategic Role of the School Committee in Islamic Education at MI Al-Barkah North Sumatra

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Abstract

The establishment of school committees is an important strategy to strengthen community involvement in education and improve the effectiveness of school management. This research aims to investigate the process of forming and establishing committees at MI Al-Barkah. The research method used is descriptive qualitative, with data collection techniques including interviews, field observations, and documentation studies (library literature). The research results show that the committee at MI Al-Barkah has been formed since 2007 and remains active to this day. The formation and establishment of this school committee has had a positive impact in increasing parent participation, the quality of education, and the effectiveness of school management.

Keywords: *Strategic Role, Education, School Committee, MI.*

INTRODUCTION

Schools are an important part of society that cannot be separated. Therefore, school development must be directed so that students are able to play an active role in everyday life in their environment. Apart from facing global and national demands, schools also have to meet various local demands, so that public attention to the development of effective schools becomes very important. In this context, schools need to establish good and reciprocal relationships with the community and surrounding environment. Apart from that, the school principal must be able to work together with the school committee in developing its programs and realizing its vision and mission. To achieve this goal, the formation of a school committee is very necessary (Mulyasa, 2012: 127).

The formation of school committees in education units and city/district governments is part of the implementation of school-based management (MBS) which has been implemented previously in accordance with Minister of Education Decree Number 044/2002. The purpose of the existence of a school committee is to create a school community organization that has commitment, loyalty and concern for improving school quality. The school committee that is formed can be developed in a unique way and is rooted in culture, demographics, ecology, agreed values, and trust that is built based on the potential of the local community (Yusuf, 2009: 3).

The role of the school committee is very important in character building because this committee helps the school prepare and provide various things that cannot be fulfilled only with a budget from school operational assistance funds (BOS). In some situations, schools need to seek external funding even though education at the school is free. However, in some schools, the role of the school committee is often ignored and is even used only to legitimize the collection of contributions from the community in the name of the school committee. Some committee members can also abuse their positions to seek personal gain for their children at school (Koesoema, 2021: 29).

This research will explain the process of creating and establishing a school committee at MI Al-Barkah. The researcher will also explain the purpose of forming a school committee and discuss its duties and functions. A deeper understanding of school committees can create a positive learning environment and provide many benefits for students, teachers and the entire school community.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research method used in this research is a descriptive qualitative method. Data collection techniques include interviews, field observations, and documentation (literature study). Interviews were conducted with the head of the school committee, while observations were carried out at MI Al-Barkah school. Literature studies include reviews or explanations of literature that is relevant to the topic or field being researched.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

MI Al-Barkah profile

MI Al-Barkah is located on Jalan Sudirman, Cinta Rakyat Village, Percut Sei Tuan District, Deli Serdang Regency, North Sumatra Province. The current principal is HM Chaidir

Lubis, SH, S.Pd.I. According to Dapodik data, MI Al-Barkah has eleven teachers. In the 2023/2024 academic year, this school has 111 male students and 109 female students.

Formation of a School Committee at MI Al-Barkah

This research found that the formation of the School Committee at MI Al-Barkah was driven by community participation in education, in accordance with the Decree of the Minister of National Education No. 044/U/2002 concerning Education Council and School Committee. The school committee was formed to create a school community organization that has commitment, loyalty and concern for improving school quality. The school committee that is formed can be developed with a unique approach, rooted in culture, demographics, ecology, agreed values, and beliefs based on the potential of the local community. Therefore, school committees must be a collective development of the philosophical wealth of society, with user-oriented concepts, various authorities, and partnerships that focus on improving the quality of educational services (Puluhulawa, 2023: 90).

The formation of a school committee follows the principle of transparency, where the process is known to the school stakeholder community, is accountable or accountable to the community both substantially and financially, and is democratic by involving the entire school community. School committees are expected to become school partners who can accommodate and channel community aspirations and initiatives in creating operational policies for education programs in schools (Fathurrahman, 2021: 18-19).

According to the results of the interview we conducted at MI Al-Barkah school with the chairman of the school committee, he said that: "forming a school committee at MI Al Barkah involves several important steps and considerations. Starting with identifying goals, such as improving the quality of education, improving facilities school, or manage school finances better. Next, there is a process for selecting committee members which involves key stakeholders such as parents, teachers, administrative staff, and perhaps also students. The duties and responsibilities of each committee member also need to be clearly defined so that everyone can contribute effectively. Open communication and collaboration between committee members, principals, and other parties are also critical to the committee's success in achieving its goals."

Apart from that, he also said that: "the school committee at MI Al-Barkah has existed since the school was founded in 2007 and is still active today. "So far, the school committee at MI Al-Barkah has changed twice." A school or madrasa committee is an independent institution whose members consist of parents/guardians of students, the school community, and community leaders who care about education. The school is at the center of the local community or community, with a rich tradition of involving students' parents and the community in providing education (Nurfadhillah, 2021: 94).

Purpose of Forming the School Committee

The School Committee is a manifestation of developing the philosophical wealth of society together. This means that the School Committee must develop concepts by considering users (client model in an economic context which refers to customers), share authority (power sharing and advocacy model), and build partnerships (partnership model) which aims to

improve the quality of educational services to meet needs. and user or customer satisfaction (Gunawan, 2024: 62).

The purpose of establishing the School Committee as a school community organization is as follows:

1. Accommodate and direct community aspirations and initiatives in formulating operational policies and educational programs in educational institutions.
2. Strengthening community responsibility and participation in the provision of education in educational institutions.
3. Creating a transparent, accountable and democratic environment in the implementation and quality of educational services in educational institutions.

School Committees must be based on active community participation to improve the quality of services and educational outcomes in schools. Therefore, its formation must pay attention to the distribution of roles in accordance with existing positions and autonomy (Rahmat, 2021: 80).

Based on the results of an interview with the head of the school committee, he stated that the purpose of forming a school committee was to act as a liaison between the school and the community. This committee was formed based on an agreement between the foundation, the school principal and the community, and plays a supporting role in organizing school activities, both in terms of finances, ideas and energy.

As an organization that accommodates the support of students' parents, the School Committee is expected to make a significant contribution to the implementation of education and play a role in shaping students' character. Its role in shaping student character shows that education is a shared responsibility (Uno, 2016: 172).

Duties and functions of the school committee

The School Committee is an independent body consisting of parents/guardians, the school community, and community leaders who care about education. This body is regulated by Minister of Education and Culture Regulation Number 75 of 2016 concerning School Committees. This regulation was stipulated by the Minister of Education and Culture, Muhadjir Effendy, on December 30 2016, and came into force after being promulgated by the Director General of Legislation of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, Widodo Ekatjahjana, in the State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 2016 Number 2117 on the date stated. same in Jakarta.

The duties of the School Committee in accordance with Minister of Education and Culture Regulation Number 75 of 2016 include:

1. Provide input in the process of determining and implementing education policies.
2. Collect funds and other educational resources from the community, including individuals, organizations, the business world, the industrial world, and other related parties through creative and innovative means.
3. Supervise the implementation of educational services in schools in accordance with applicable regulations.
4. Responding to complaints, suggestions, criticism and aspirations from students, parents/guardians and the community, as well as evaluating school performance (Budi, 2022: 119-120).

Based on the results of an interview with the head of the school committee, he stated that the main task of the school committee is to supervise the use of school funds and convey the aspirations of the students' parents. In essence, the school committee was formed to maintain transparency between the school and parents. The function of the school committee, as regulated in Minister of National Education Decree Number 044/U/2002 concerning Education Councils and School Committees, was then included in Article 56 paragraph 1 and paragraph 3 in Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System. Article 56 paragraph 1 states that the community plays a role in improving the quality of educational services through planning, monitoring and evaluating educational programs through education councils and school/madrasah committees. Article 56 paragraph 3 emphasizes that school/madrasah committees, as independent institutions, are formed and play a role in improving the quality of educational services by providing input, direction and support both in terms of personnel, facilities and infrastructure, as well as in supervising education at the educational unit level (Furkan, 2013: 69).

The School Committee has a function as an advisory institution that provides considerations and recommendations regarding: (1) Educational policies and programs. (2) School Revenue and Expenditure Budget Plan (RAPBS). (3) Education unit performance criteria. (4) Criteria for educational staff. (5) Criteria for educational facilities. (7) Matters related to education (Nasution, 2022: 38).

Apart from that, based on the results of an interview with the chairman of the MI Al-Barkah school committee, he also explained that the school committee acts as a supervisor who monitors and evaluates program implementation so that it complies with applicable planning and regulations. The Committee is also responsible for ensuring accountability and transparency in the use of funds. This committee also functions as a communication link between the school, parents and the community, to convey their aspirations, complaints and hopes.

In the Islamic view, cooperation is a reflection of human social nature and is a way to fulfill various needs in society. Islam emphasizes ownership of property and divine gifts given to the entire community as well as brotherhood among fellow Muslims, both men and women. Because humans are naturally social creatures whose many needs are met in society, humans must cooperate with other people. Human life is very dependent on participation in social life. The main principle in the Islamic religion is living together and establishing relationships with society, remembering that individuals have limitations.

The benefits obtained from society are much greater than the benefits that can be obtained by individuals themselves because of their limitations. Therefore, Islam teaches its followers to always work together in doing good deeds. When individuals work together and establish social relationships, the spirit of unity that flows within them will protect them from division. Thus, Islam places great emphasis on the importance of participation in social life.

CONCLUSION

The formation of a school committee has a significant strategic role, because it has a positive impact on increasing parent participation, the quality of education and the effectiveness of school management. School committees provide a platform for collaboration between

parents, teachers and other stakeholders, strengthening the involvement of the school community in decision making. Therefore, research regarding the Formation and Establishment of School Committees at MI Al-Barkah North Sumatra is very effective in supporting the development of educational programs that suit student needs and create a holistic learning environment. School committees play an important role as active partners in improving the quality of education and achieving better learning goals.

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