

ABSTRACT

The moral degradation of the nation's generation is judged due to the fault of non-boarding public education. Today's public education only focuses on supervising the students' intellectual intelligence. An effective public education is the one which produces students with high exam score, even though sometimes it is the opposite of their low moral value. Parents consider Islamic boarding school as the best education system to build children's character.

This research aims to find out: (1) children's character before they enter Taruna Al-Qur'an Islamic Boarding School, (2) boarding school system in building the students' character during their one year study at Taruna Al-Qur'an Islamic Boarding School, (3) the effectiveness of boarding school education in building students' character after their one year study at Taruna Al-Qur'an Islamic Boarding School.

This is a qualitative research in which the data is presented in its natural setting without changing any symbols and numbers. The techniques of data collection used in this research were; (1) interview, (2) observation, and (3) documentation. All the data was then written, gathered, added specific notes, observed and selected so that valid data related to the research could be collected. Especially for the interview technique, simple notes were made from the recording for later reduction. The three components were (a) data gathering, (b) data display, and (c) drawing conclusion. The researcher then studied the result from the collected data in the research.

The research result shows that; (1) the students' character before they enter Taruna Al-Qur'an Islamic Boarding School indicated that they were not accustomed to act based on the religious teachings. Some students behaved only because they were told or following their peers, there were no internal motivation and drive from within. They were not discipline in performing compulsory religious services, while voluntary religious services were not conducted except for a small portion. Students often mocked each other, bullied and bothered their peers, fought with their friends, even being rude to teachers. Students also could not take care of their personal and environmental hygiene. (2) The boarding school education system at Taruna Al-Qur'an Islamic Boarding School builds students character in three ways, they are; (a) theoretical learning and concept in the classroom, (b) rules and punishments, and (c) rewards which are effective. The theoretical learning still needs to be arranged and put in a better curriculum. (3) The research result indicates that boarding school education at Taruna Al-Qur'an Islamic Boarding School is considered positive. Students' character related to religious services and worship to Allah has increased significantly. Students are aware that mass congregation is compulsory, the importance of reciting Al-Qur'an, voluntary fasting, and have an in-depth understanding about their religions. While in terms of order and hygiene, the students are better than before. They keep clean, discipline, and maintain order in their daily lives. They behave well towards their peers, no mocking, bullying, fighting and other unpleasant behavior. They care about their friends' feelings because they are brothers and sisters in faith. They also respect their teachers because of their faith and the blessings in their lives.

Keywords: boarding school education, Islamic Boarding School, Character

