

# Factors Causing Low Activity of Mosque Youth in Air Dingin Bukit Raya Village Pekanbaru City

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## Abstract

This study aims to identify the factors causing the low level of mosque youth activities in Air Dingin Subdistrict, Bukit Raya District, Pekanbaru City. This research employed a descriptive qualitative approach with data collected through observation, interviews, and documentation involving mosque youth members, mosque administrators, community leaders, and parents. The findings indicate that the low level of mosque youth activities is influenced by internal and external factors, including low motivation and religious awareness, weak organizational management, full-day school activities, lack of parental support, limited funding and facilities, the influence of social media, and weak coordination between mosque youth organizations and mosque management. Therefore, integrated guidance, innovative programs, and strengthened collaboration among mosque youth, mosque administrators, families, and the community are needed to revitalize mosque youth activities

**Keywords:** Mosque Youth, Youth Activities, Causal Factors.



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## Introduction

The mosque plays a strategic role not only as a place of worship but also as a center for education, proselytization, and social development of the community, especially for the younger generation. The presence of mosque youth is an important element in maintaining the sustainability of the mosque's function as a center for religious and social character development. Mosque youth play a role as the driving force behind religious, social, and educational activities that can shape the morals, leadership, and social concern of youth in the community. Nashir et al. (2020) stated that mosque youth organizations serve as a platform for da'wah and the development of young people in order to make the mosque prosperous. A similar point was made by Warzukni and Satria (2024), who emphasized that mosque youth activities significantly contribute to increasing religious awareness and the morals of young people.

However, various studies show that the participation of teenagers in mosque activities has experienced a significant decline. Ridwan Faiz et al. (2022) revealed that the interest of adolescents in mosque youth organizations tends to decline despite the educational value of the activities carried out. Technological developments and social media have also contributed to this low participation. Dewi et al. (2025) explain that the high intensity of social media use leads adolescents to be more interested in digital activities than religious practices. Additionally, the implementation of a full-day school system also hinders adolescent involvement in mosque activities due to limited time and energy (Ketut Eriyani & Safar, 2020).

Family environmental factors also have a significant influence on adolescents' involvement in religious activities. The lack of parental support and attention toward religious guidance leads to low

motivation among teenagers to be active in mosques. This condition is exacerbated by weak organizational management and a lack of innovation in mosque youth activity programs that meet the needs and characteristics of today's youth. Nudin and Fakhruroji (2023) emphasize that the suboptimal management of mosque youth organizations impacts the low participation of youth in making the mosque prosperous.

The urgency of this research is further strengthened considering that adolescents are a strategic asset in building national character. Dwi Yana Alidia et al. (2024) state that mosques have great potential as centers for community education and training that are adaptable to the times. Additionally, Rifka Andriani et al. (2024) explain that mosques can transform into centers of non-formal educational innovation, playing a crucial role in empowering the younger generation. If the low activity of mosque youth is left unaddressed, the function of the mosque as a center for youth development is feared to weaken further.

Based on this background, the aim of this research is to examine and analyze the factors causing the low activity of mosque youth in the community. This research is expected to provide a comprehensive overview of the internal and external factors that influence adolescent involvement in mosque activities. As for the problem-solving plan, it is directed toward strengthening the management of mosque youth organizations, innovating program activities relevant to youth interests, and increasing synergy between mosque youth, mosque administrators, families, and the community so that the mosque can once again function as a center for fostering the younger generation.

## **Methods**

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach with a naturalistic research design, which is research aimed at deeply understanding phenomena based on natural conditions without manipulation by the researcher. This approach was chosen because the research focuses on revealing the factors causing low mosque youth activity thru understanding the experiences, views, and social realities that occur in the field.

The scope or object of this research is the activities of mosque youth and the factors that influence them. The research was conducted at the Ikhwanul Muslimin Mosque in Air Dingin Village, Bukit Raya District, Pekanbaru City, with research subjects including mosque youth, mosque administrators, community leaders, and the parents of the youth. The selection of the research location was based on the phenomenon of low participation by adolescents in mosque activities despite the availability of the mosque's organizational structure and facilities.

The main materials and tools in this study are the researcher as the primary instrument, as is characteristic of qualitative research. The tools used included an interview guide, observation sheets, a voice recorder, and documentation in the form of photos and archives of mosque youth activities. All these tools are used to support the systematic and in-depth collection of data.

Data collection techniques were carried out thru observation, interviews, and documentation. Observation was used to directly observe the conditions of mosque youth activities and social interactions occurring within the mosque environment. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with informants to gather information regarding the causes of low mosque youth activity. Documentation is used as supporting data, including activity archives, photos, and written notes relevant to the research.

Data analysis techniques were conducted qualitatively, with the stages of data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The data obtained were analyzed by sorting relevant information, grouping main themes, and interpreting the meaning of the data based on the research objectives. To ensure data validity, this study uses source triangulation and technique triangulation, which involves comparing data from observations, interviews, and documentation.

## Results and Discussions

### 1. Results

This section of the discussion outlines and interprets the research findings regarding the factors contributing to the low activity of youth in the Ikhwanul Muslimin Mosque in Air Dingin Village, Bukit Raya District, Pekanbaru City. The discussion was conducted by linking the field findings from observations, interviews, and documentation with relevant theoretical studies and previous research.

Table 1.  
Findings on Factors Causing Low Activity of Mosque Youth

| No. | Cause Factor                       | Field Findings                                                                                               |
|-----|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | Teenage Motivation and Awareness   | Some teenagers lack religious awareness and motivation to actively participate in mosque activities.         |
| 2.  | Organizational Management          | The program activities are unstructured, the schedule is irregular, and the leadership regeneration is weak. |
| 3.  | Kesibukan Sekolah                  | Sistem sekolah full day membuat remaja kelelahan dan kekurangan waktu                                        |
| 4.  | Parental Support                   | Parental support and encouragement for mosque activities are still low.                                      |
| 5.  | The Influence of Social Media      | Teenagers are more interested in digital activities than religious activities.                               |
| 6.  | Support from the Mosque Management | Coordination and synergy with mosque youth are not yet optimal.                                              |

### 2. Discussions

Based on the table, it can be understood that the low activity of mosque youth is caused by a combination of interconnected internal and external factors. From an internal perspective, low motivation and religious awareness among adolescents are the main factors influencing their participation. This finding aligns with the research by Ridwan Faiz et al. (2022), which states that the low interest of adolescents in mosque youth organizations is influenced by the perception that the activities organized are less interesting and do not meet the needs of today's youth.

Additionally, the weak management of mosque youth organizations further exacerbates this condition. The research results indicate that the activities of the mosque youth have not been designed in a structured and sustainable manner, and the regeneration of the management is slow. This finding reinforces the opinion of Nudin and Fakhruroji (2023), who emphasize that poor management of mosque organizations impacts the low participation of young people in prospering the mosque.

The dominant external factor is the busyness of teenagers due to the implementation of the full-day school system. Teenagers tend to feel tired after a full day of academic activities, leaving them with no energy or time to participate in mosque activities. This aligns with the research by Ketut Eriyani and Safar (2020), which states that the full-day school system has the potential to reduce student involvement in non-academic activities, including religious activities.

Family support also plays an important role in determining the level of adolescent participation. The interview results indicate that some parents provide less encouragement for their children to be active in the mosque. This condition causes teenagers not to prioritize mosque activities. This finding reinforces the view that the family's role is the primary foundation in the religious development of adolescents.

Additionally, the influence of social media and technological advancements pose a unique challenge to the activities of mosque youth. Teenagers are more interested in digital entertainment

content than religious activities, which they find less appealing. Dewi et al. (2025) explain that high intensity of social media use can distract adolescents from social and religious activities, thus reducing their participation in community events.

The lack of synergy between the mosque youth management and the mosque administrators is also a hindering factor. The research results indicate that communication and coordination between the two parties have not been optimal, especially in terms of program planning and facility provision. In fact, structural support from the mosque administrators is very necessary to support the continuity of mosque youth activities. Dwi Yana Alidia et al. (2024) emphasize that mosques can function optimally as community development centers if there is good cooperation between the management and all involved elements.

Overall, this discussion shows that the low activity of mosque youth is not caused by a single factor, but rather the result of the interaction of various internal and external factors. Therefore, an integrated approach is needed thru strengthening organizational management, innovating program activities relevant to adolescent characteristics, increasing family support, and fostering sustainable synergy between mosque youth and mosque administrators so that the mosque can once again function as a center for developing the younger generation.

## Conclusion

Based on the research findings and discussion, it can be concluded that the low activity of mosque youth at Ikhwanul Muslimin Mosque in Air Dingin Village, Bukit Raya District, Pekanbaru City is caused by a combination of internal and external factors. Internal factors include low motivation and religious awareness among youth, as well as weak management of the mosque youth organization. External factors include full-day school schedules, lack of parental support, limited funds and facilities, the influence of social media, and the sub-optimal synergy between mosque youth and mosque administrators. This condition causes the activities of the mosque youth to not run in a structured and sustainable manner. Therefore, integrated efforts are needed thru strengthening organizational management, innovating program activities that are suitable for the characteristics of adolescents, and increasing cooperation between mosque youth, mosque administrators, families, and the community so that the mosque can function again as a center for developing the younger generation.

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