# STRENGTHENING RELIGIOUS LITERACY TO MINIMIZE FORMS OF BULLYING IN EARLY CHILDREN

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*Abstract:* Early childhood is in a critical phase of development, where they not only experience physical growth but also social, emotional and spiritual development. Threats to children's safety, such as bullying, are an important issue in this context. Bullying, both physical and psychological, is an increasingly prominent problem. The high number of cyber bullying cases in Indonesia is an interesting thing to discuss. The aim of this research is to discuss approaches to strengthening religious literacy as an effort to minimize forms of bullying in early childhood. This research method is qualitative with a descriptive perspective. The results of this research state that religious literacy is not only an understanding of religious teachings, but also includes moral values, ethics and behavioral norms. Understanding religious moral values helps children develop strong character and understand human principles. By building a strong moral and spiritual foundation from an early age, children can grow into individuals who are empathetic, tolerant, and able to fight against all forms of injustice. This approach not only creates a safe environment for children but also builds the foundation for a more harmonious and civilized society.

*Keywords:* Religious Literacy, Bullying, Early Childhood

## Introduction

Literacy become means participant educate in know, understand and apply the knowledge he gained. Discuss literacy naturally will focused on read and book. Literacy no only just activity read and writing, however demand exists skills think critical in evaluate sources knowledge Good in form print, visual, digital, and expected auditory capable develop attitude (Nurdiyanti & Suryanto, 2010). Somebody called literate if He own knowledge and true abilities For used in every demanding activities function literacy in a way effective in public; and acquired literacy through reading, writing, and arithmetic. That possible for utilized for himself alone and development public (Hess & Benson, 2020)

Miscellaneous literacy there is many, among others literacy basics, religious literacy, media literacy, literacy computer, literacy technology, literacy science, and Still Lots Again. Various type literacy has also discussed previously (Limilia & Pratamawaty, 2017; Parulian & Tan, 2021; Saputra & Nurdiansyah, 2020). However, until moment this discussion about religious literacy still not yet lots. Religious materials have obtained with read the koran and hadith for Islamic students or read the Bible for student Christian or books holy according to other religions. At school general, religious lessons only obtained one sunday very during two hour meeting, with recite about history or stated religious values in book holy. Materials the very relevant with all problems faced in this modern era. One of them is widespread case bullying on child.

*Bullying* or what is better known as harassment is a negative action that is carried out continuously and repeatedly, both physically and psychologically, by other people towards

someone. This action results in the victim becoming helpless and injured both physically and mentally (López-Castro & López-Ratón, 2023). Bullying can occur both in the real world (*offline*) and the virtual world (*online*) (Escayg, 2020). In the virtual world or cyber world, cyberbullying *is* an act of bullying that occurs using cyber media via computers, mobile phones and other electronic devices (Saimima & Rahayu, 2020). Facilities in cyber media allow anyone to access social media accounts, for example, belonging to other people or use anonymous accounts to create new social media accounts. Compared to the real world (*offline*), bullying in the *online world* is easy to do and tends to be safe (Olweus et al., 2019). Cyber media devices allow someone to build another identity (*anonymous*) or a false self-reality so that other users do not know their true identity (Nasrullah, 2015).

Cases of cyber bullying in Indonesia are quite high, as stated by KPAI, in this decade, there were 37,381 complaints received (Rastati, 2016). Of this number, reports of bullying cases both in real life and via social media reached 2,473 reports (Dwi, 2021). Various forms of cyber bullying reported include insults, threats and humiliation on social media. Moreover, students in Indonesia and even in the world are now in the online learning period due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which means children hold devices or gadgets for almost 24 hours. Bullying in Indonesia does not only occur among celebrities, but can also affect students, politicians and even government institutions. Call it the cyber bullying experienced by Arya Febrian Dwi Rossap or familiarly called Arya. His popularity on TikTok capable bring income. However, because of his popularity, he is often bullied and considered a deviant man.

Based on the above phenomena, focus writing this is religious literacy as wrong one possible efforts done for minimize form bullying happen on children. As for objective study this is find various effort religious literacy for minimize form bullying happen on children.

**METHOD**

This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach. The qualitative descriptive approach is an approach that explains the research results in detail and is arranged in the form of a description so as to get a clear picture of the research results (Suhartono, 2005) . Technique data collection in the form of documentation with listening techniques and note on community children in the region Madiun. The data that is ready is analyzed using description and *content analysis methods*. Method analysis fill is study method study this is what is presented in form summary For describe the essence of the results as well as the main idea study in a way scientific, orderly And quantitative about mutual content relate. Study study This discuss full about forms religious literacy as effort minimize exists bullying on child age early.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Child age early is phase critical in development man. On period here, child no only experience growth physical, but also developmental social, emotional, and spiritual. However, threats to security And well-being child , like Bullying often haunts this period.

**1. Shape Bullying that Occurs**

Bullying is a new phenomenon along with the development of the internet in the world and Indonesia. In reality, there are many forms of bullying. Haryati (2014 ) divides bullying into several forms. The following is a complete description.

**a. Online *flaming* or fighting**

*Flaming* or online fighting is a war of words in cyberspace using language that contains anger, vulgarity, threats and derogation. Online fights usually take place in emails, chat rooms, and social media.



Figure 1. Example of a Quarrel

The image above shows several comments in a post on TikTok. The comment above contains taunts that cause a fight because someone who is called *a cil* or *a kid* doesn't accept it so he protests by saying that *I'm a kid* . Other comments also poured in which then became an arena for a war of words and mutual sarcasm.

**b.** *Harassment* **or Harassment**

Harassment or harassment is cyber bullying that uses harsh words, attacks and harasses someone repeatedly.



Figure 2. Example of Harassment

The image above shows that the uploader of the TikTok video is singing, but the uploader's voice actually gets ridiculed and insulted by other TikTok accounts. The comments above directly insult the voice of the uploader who is still a child by saying that his voice is *whiny* and *phony* , he can't sing, his singing isn't good, to the point that the listener's ears are about to burst.

**c.** *Denigration* **or slander**

　　　*Denigration* or slander is cyber bullying carried out by writing false insulting posts or comments, cruel gossip and rumors about someone to damage a person's reputation. Some cases even create special pages on social media to embarrass someone.



Figure 3. Example of Slander

　　　The picture above shows that there is a comment which states that the rat in the tie in question is only corrupt officials, but this statement is of course directed at officials, not individuals, so it could give rise to slander. This was followed by another comment which said that these officials often broke their promises.

**d.** *Trickery* **or deceit**

　　　Trickery or deception is tricking someone into doing something embarrassing, revealing embarrassing information about themselves in the form of text, photos and videos to be distributed widely on the internet.

Figure 4. Example of deception

The comments above appeared because the uploader deliberately made a bad singing video to attract comments from other people. This was confirmed again by the bottom comment which stated that the uploader really wanted to be blasphemed by creating bad things.

## 2. Religious Literacy as Effort Minimize Bullying

One of possible approach taken For minimize form bullying on child age early is through strengthening religious literacy. Religious literacy is not only limited understanding to certain religious teachings, but also includes moral values, ethics, and norms taught behavior in religious teachings. Introduce religious literacy since early can give base strong for child For develop strong character and understand principles base humanity .

a . Religious education

Religious education in schools or through formal and informal education programs can become means effective for give more understanding deep about religious values.

Figure 5. Formal religious education at school

Religious teachers and educator must ensure that material presented relevant with life daily children And capable give deep understanding about importance honor fellow.

b. Story And Fairytale Religious

Use story And fairytale religious can become effective tool in teach moral values to children. Stories the can help they understand concepts like honesty, kindness, and empathy.


Figure 6. Screening of religious films and fairy tales at school

c . Participation Community Religious

Engaging children in activity community religious can give they experience direct in apply internal religious teachings life daily. This no only strengthen religious literacy but also constructive network social positive.


Figure 7. Religious Community Involvement

**3. Benefits Strengthening Religious Literacy as Effort Minimize Bullying**

After done various activity related literacy religious, both at school or at home, below benefits obtained.

a . Understanding Moral Values

With understand internal moral values religious teachings, children can develop morality And strong ethics, which can become base for good attitude.

b . Development Empathy and Tolerance

literacy also helps develop empathy and tolerance to difference. Children Study For honor and accept diversity in trust and religious practice.

c . Prevention Bullying

With base strong religious values, children will more capable identify and reject action bullying. They will too more tend form positive relationship with fellow.

**Conclusion**

Strengthening religious literacy on child age early can become step effective in minimize form bullying. With build solid moral and spiritual foundation, children can grow become empathetic, tolerant, and individual own courage for oppose all form injustice. Approach this No only create safe environment and support for children but also building base for more society harmonious and civilized .

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