



Online Admission Management For New Students Based on Academic Achievement, Regular Admission, And Affirmative Action at MAN 1 East Aceh

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the management of the online new student admission process (PPDB) based on the merit, regular, and affirmative action tracks at MAN 1 East Aceh. The study employed a descriptive qualitative approach, with data collected through interviews, observations, and documentation. The research informants consisted of the madrasah principal, the PPDB committee, and system operators, all of whom were selected through purposive sampling. The results show that online PPDB management is carried out through four stages: planning, organizing, implementation, and supervision and monitoring. The PPDB process utilizes Google Forms in two registration waves, with selection based on the completeness of documents and report card grades according to the respective admission tracks. The use of Google Forms simplifies the registration process and data management; however, it still has limitations because it does not yet support integrated document verification, registration pathway sorting, and data security. Overall, online PPDB management at MAN 1 Aceh Timur has been effective, transparent, and capable of supporting a fair and equitable student admission process.

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Introduction

Improving the quality of education in madrassas must be supported by careful planning and systematic management of students (Ansar, 2019). Student management includes various stages, from the admission of new students to the graduation process (Albab, Muslimin, Zuhriyah, Aminatuz, & Hernawati, 2023). In today's digital era, the use of information technology is an important need for educational institutions to support the smooth flow of information, improve the efficiency of data management, and support sustainable quality control of education (Ardyannas Eko, Putri, Andisetyana, Rahayu, &

Jani, 2022).

Admission of new students is a routine activity carried out by every educational institution, because the existence of educational institutions cannot be separated from the students themselves (Pangestika Rizky, Amilda Amilda, & Astuti Mardiah, 2024). Students as the main subject of education need services that are in accordance with their talents, interests, and abilities in order to develop optimally (Warmanto & Arif, 2023). Therefore, the implementation of PPDB must be carried out objectively, transparently, accountably, and without discrimination as stipulated in the Regulation of the Minister of Education and Culture Number 17 of 2017. The policy also requires local governments and education units to develop an admission system that is able to ensure equitable access to education (Oktafiana Alma, Laksanti Fitria, Yolanda KD, & Suluh, 2019).

At first, the process of accepting new students (PPDB) was still carried out manually, so there were often errors in data management and storage and it took a relatively long time in the selection process (Almufqi, Milan Fabiano, Voutama Apriade, & Heryana Nono, 2023). Along with the development of information technology, the implementation of PPDB has been transformed into an online-based system (*Online*) which is able to automate all stages of selection, from registration to announcement of results in an integrated and systematic manner (Cindy et al., 2025). In addition, the implementation of the PPDB system *Online* It is also designed to embody the principles of objectivity, transparency, and accountability in the student admission process (Almufqi et al., 2023).

In the national PPDB policy, the admission of new students is carried out through several paths, such as the achievement path, the regular path, and the affirmation path, each of which has different criteria and selection mechanisms. The achievement path is based on the academic and non-academic achievements of students (Supraptiyaningrum Supraptiyaningrum & Muzayanah Muzayanah, 2020). The regular route is intended for registrants through a general mechanism in accordance with applicable provisions ("Permendikbud Number 1 of 2021 Article 24," 2021). Meanwhile, the affirmation pathway gives priority to students from vulnerable or economically disadvantaged groups (Maharani, Sofiyanti, Arba, Nugraha, & Suhardi, 2025). The difference in characteristics in each of these pathways requires planned and structured management so that its implementation can run fairly and evenly (Hubaib Futum, Biantary Preva, & Maya, 2022).

In the context of education management, the success of the implementation of PPDB is not only determined by the system used, but also by planned and structured management (Jannah, Anwar US, & Shalahudin, 2025). Management is the process of planning, organizing, implementing, and controlling resources to achieve goals effectively and efficiently (Husni Pasarela, 2023). In education, student management is an important part that includes the entire process of student management, including the admission of new students (Wasiati, 2024).

Research (Febrianti, Hadiyanto, Syahril, & Sulastri, 2025) shows that the

implementation of PPDB in a *Online* able to increase transparency, objectivity, and accountability in the selection process. While research (Istriyani & Satyarini, 2021) reveals that the implementation of PPDB in a *Online* as an effort to facilitate the promotion and registration of new students. While (Holle et al., 2026) revealed that the admission of new students is carried out through several channels, namely domicile, affirmation, achievement, and mutation pathways. Each pathway has a certain quota in accordance with government policy, so effective management is needed so that the admission process runs in accordance with applicable regulations and is able to ensure equal access to education. Other research also revealed that the implementation of PPDB *Online* is relatively effective, although there are still obstacles such as limited technological infrastructure, operator competence, and lack of socialization to the community (Nurkia, 2022).

From these various studies, it appears that there is still a research *gap* in understanding how the management of new student admissions based on achievement, regular, and affirmation pathways is implemented in a structured and integrated manner in the context of madrasas. In addition, previous research that specifically examined the simultaneous and comprehensive management of the three pathways is still relatively limited, so it has not been able to provide a complete picture of how student admission management is carried out in practice.

The management of the three pathways simultaneously presents its own administrative complexity. In the achievement path, the committee is required to verify the authenticity of the certificate or award certificate attached to the prospective student, considering that the practice of document manipulation in the PPDB achievement path has become a real problem with various modes, ranging from manipulation of grades on certificates to falsification of certificates as a whole (Narulita, Sekarlangit, & Abdillah, 2025). Even national regulations expressly stipulate that falsification of proof of achievement is sanctioned according to the provisions of the law (Regulation of the Minister of Education and Culture, 2021). Meanwhile, on the affirmation path, the main challenge lies in verifying the accuracy of the recipient's targets, where proving economic conditions of inability requires careful review of documents, and if there is an allegation of falsification of proof of membership in the program for underprivileged families, schools and local governments are obliged to verify data to the field (Regulation of the Minister of Education and Culture, 2021). The complexity of managing these three pathways simultaneously is what makes the study of multi-pathway-based PPDB management in the context of madrasah need to be studied more deeply.

This research focuses on PPDB management *Online* achievement-based, regular, and affirmation pathways at MAN 1 East Aceh, with the aim of analyzing how the requirements are determined, capacity, activity schedules, and socialization, followed by registration mechanisms, data input and verification, selection processes in each path, announcement of results, and re-registration of new students, obstacles faced, and

improvement efforts in the implementation of PPDB *Online* It is carried out in an integrated manner to realize an effective, fair, and consistent system for admitting new students. (Nurjaningsih, 2021).

Methods

This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive method that aims to describe in depth the management process of new student admissions (PPDB) *Online* at MAN 1 East Aceh. The qualitative approach was chosen with the aim of systematically explaining phenomena, perceptions, and behaviors, and presenting them based on empirical data and facts found in the field (Waruwu, 2024). The research was carried out at Madrasah Aliyah Negeri (MAN) 1 East Aceh.

The research subjects consisted of 3 (three) informants, namely 1 (one) madrasah head, 1 (one) PPDB committee, and 1 (one) PPDB system operator *Online*. The three informants were selected by *Purposive* sampling because it is the party that best understands and is directly involved in the entire PPDB management process *Online* at MAN 1 East Aceh, starting from planning, organizing, implementing, to supervision. The selection of informants is based on their role, experience, and competence in providing relevant and in-depth information related to the research focus (Scott, 2016). Interviews were conducted in one session per informant with an average duration of 20 minutes, focused on aspects of PPDB management *Online* according to the interview guidelines that have been prepared beforehand. Data collection will be carried out intensively in May 2026, but the validity of the data will be maintained through source triangulation and triangulation techniques that combine interviews, observations, and documentation (Scott, 2016).

The data collection technique is carried out in several ways, namely: 1) In-depth interviews conducted in a semi-structured manner to explore information about PPDB management *Online*, which includes planning aspects such as determining requirements, capacity, activity schedules, and socialization, implementation aspects that include registration mechanisms, data input, data verification, selection processes on each track, announcement of results, and re-registration, organizational aspects and evaluation aspects related to supervision and monitoring, obstacles faced, and improvement efforts in the implementation of PPDB *Online* (Nurjaningsih, 2021). 2) Observation is carried out in a non-participatory manner on the results of the research (Qoryah Sayyidatul, Rosyida Ainur, Fatiya NurAmin, Malik, & Maulana, 2024), such as the process of determining accepted students, managing new student data, and administrative activities after the selection process is completed. 3) Documentation is carried out by collecting various documents related to research (Ardiansyah, Ardiansyah, Muzakki Ahsyaf, & Hidayat Ara, 2025), such as registrant data, selection results, technical instructions for the implementation of PPDB, activity reports, and madrasah policy archives related to the new student admission system based on *Online*.

Data analysis was carried out using an interactive model from (Miles, M. B.,

Huberman, & Saldana, 2014), which includes three stages, namely: 1) Data condensation, which is the process of selecting, simplifying, and focusing data relevant to the research. 2) Data presentation is carried out by compiling findings in the form of a systematic descriptive narrative. 3) Drawing conclusions and verification, carried out by interpreting data, finding patterns in PPDB management *Online*, and compare it with theories and results of previous research.

To ensure the validity of the data, this study uses source triangulation techniques and triangulation techniques. Source triangulation is carried out by comparing information from various informants, while technical triangulation is carried out by matching the results of interviews, observations, and documentation so that the data obtained is more valid and credible (Scott, 2016).

Result

Based on the results of research that has been carried out by researchers, several findings were obtained related to the management of Online New Student Admissions (PPDB) at MAN 1 East Aceh. The findings of the research include aspects of planning, organizing, implementation, admission channels, student services, external cooperation, as well as supervision and monitoring in the implementation of PPDB *Online*. All of these aspects are interrelated in supporting the smooth process of accepting new students through the *Online* system. The research findings can be seen in the following table. charts, diagrams, maps, photographs, or sketches are numbered in order with explanations and placed under the image.

Table 1. Findings of Management of Online New Student Admissions at MAN 1 East Aceh

| Aspects | Research Findings |
|-------------------|---|
| Planning | PPDB is planned through school coordination meetings with <i>the Online system</i> and the division of admission pathways |
| Organizing | The committee was formed by dividing tasks according to their respective fields |
| Implementation | PPDB is carried out <i>online</i> through <i>Google Form</i> from registration to re-registration |
| Admission pathway | Admission through merit, regular, and affirmation pathways |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Student services | The school provides assistance through WA and technical assistance in filling/uploading files. |
| External Cooperation | Madrasah establishes formal cooperation with one dayah and one orphanage as a place to live for students from outside the region |
| Surveillance and monitoring | The principal and committee monitor and evaluate the PPDB process. |

The table above shows that the management of Online New Student Admissions (PPDB) based on merit, regular, and affirmation at MAN 1 East Aceh is carried out through four interrelated management stages, namely planning, organizing, implementing, and supervising. In addition to these four stages, there are also supporting aspects that also affect the smooth running of the PPDB process, including admission pathways, student services, and external cooperation. The implementation of PPDB is carried out in a structured manner through *the Online* system using Google Form in two waves of registration, by involving all madrasah committees according to their respective duties and responsibilities to support the smooth process of accepting new students that is effective, fair, and transparent

Discussion

Planning for New Student Admissions Online at MAN 1 East Aceh

New Student Admissions (PPDB) *Online* at MAN 1 East Aceh is inseparable from the planning process carried out by the school so that the implementation of PPDB can run well, directed, and in accordance with the goals that have been set. PPDB planning process *Online* began with the implementation of a joint meeting involving the principal, deputy head of student affairs, PPDB operators, teachers, and the PPDB committee. The meeting was held to prepare a work program and discuss various needs in the implementation of PPDB *Online*, such as scheduling activities, division of committee duties, registration system *Online*, new student admission pathways, and adjustments to school capacity based on available facilities and infrastructure.

With the planning meeting, the implementation of PPDB *Online* at MAN 1 East Aceh can be prepared in a more systematic and organized manner. In line with the opinion (Ansar et al. 2019) that in planning the admission of new students, there are several things that are considered, such as the capacity of the madrasah, the ratio between teachers and students, facilities and infrastructure, and the preparation of student activity programs so that the implementation of PPDB can run effectively and in accordance with the needs of the school.

Based on the results of an interview with the Principal of MAN 1 East Aceh, it is

known that in the planning process of PPDB *Online*, the madrasah first considers the school's capacity based on the number of learning rooms, facilities and infrastructure, as well as the number of available educators. The principal explained that the admission of new students is adjusted to the facilities owned by the madrasah so that the learning process can run properly and effectively. Therefore, madrasahs do not accept students beyond the predetermined capacity.

The principal explained that before the implementation of PPDB began, the school held a meeting with teachers and the PPDB committee to prepare a work program, determine the implementation schedule, and discuss the online registration system to be used. In the meeting, it was also discussed about the division of committee tasks so that each member has responsibilities according to their respective fields.

The madrasah has established three pathways for accepting new students, namely the achievement pathway, the regular pathway, and the affirmation pathway. The achievement path is intended for students who have academic and non-academic achievements, the regular path is intended for general students, while the affirmation path is intended for students with certain conditions according to the provisions of madrasahs. These findings are in line with research (Rizki et al. 2023) which explains that the implementation of PPDB *Online* is carried out through several new student admission channels as a form of implementing education policies so that the student admission process can run more directed, orderly, and in accordance with school needs.

In addition, madrasahs also plan to use a digital system in the implementation of PPDB *Online* to make it easier for people to register. PPDB socialization is carried out through social media, brochures, and direct socialization to junior high school/MTs schools so that information about PPDB *Online* can be widely known by the public. With this careful planning, the implementation of PPDB *Online* at MAN 1 East Aceh can run more effectively and in a more directed manner.

In addition to developing a system and pathway for the admission of new students, one of the most prominent aspects of planning that distinguishes MAN 1 East Aceh from other madrasahs is the planning of formal external cooperation with one dayah and one orphanage located around the school environment. This collaboration has been going on for many years and is specifically prepared as a housing solution for new students from outside the region, so that they can still access education at MAN 1 East Aceh without being constrained by housing problems. This kind of cooperation planning reflects the tangible form of integration of local community resources in education management, where madrasahs not only function as learning institutions, but also play an active role in ensuring the continuity of access to education for all students who need additional support (Shobri, 2024).

This shows that PPDB planning at MAN 1 East Aceh is not only administrative, but also touches on social and humanitarian dimensions that reflect the values of inclusivity in Islamic education. The practice of planning cooperation with local socio-religious

institutions such as dayah and orphanages should be a model for other madrasas in integrating the potential of the surrounding community into the PPDB management system to expand the reach of educational services in a sustainable and equitable manner.

Organizing Online Student Admissions at MAN 1 East Aceh

The organization of Online New Student Admissions (PPDB) at MAN 1 East Aceh is carried out so that the entire process of implementing PPDB can run in an orderly, directed, and in accordance with the duties of each committee. In the implementation of the organization, the school formed a committee structure involving the PPDB committee, school operators, teachers, and several other parties who had their own duties and responsibilities. This is in line with research (Rohmah et al. 2021) which states that the organization of PPDB is carried out through the formation of a committee and the determination of the duties and responsibilities of each committee member so that the implementation of new student admissions can run in accordance with the provisions set by the school.

Based on the results of interviews with the PPDB Man 1 East Aceh committee, it is known that after the committee was formed, the madrasah divided tasks to each committee member according to their respective fields of work. The division of tasks includes the field of socialization, the field of assessment or file examination, the field of documentation, and the field of social media content. Each field has different tasks according to the needs of the implementation of PPDB *Online*.

In the socialization activity, the school also involved teachers and several students to help convey information about PPDB Online to the community and schools at the junior high school/MTs level. In addition, the deputy principal coordinates with the destination school during the socialization activity.

Furthermore, the assessment field is in charge of checking the data and completeness of the files of students who register in accordance with the selected admission path, namely the achievement path, the regular path, and the affirmation path. In addition, there is also a documentation field that is in charge of documenting all PPDB *Online activities*, while the social media content field is in charge of managing the publication of PPDB information through school social media with the public relations department.

In addition to the division of tasks to each field, the school also regulates coordination between committee members in the PPDB Online committee structure. The coordination is carried out between the principal, deputy head of student affairs, PPDB operators, teachers, and other committees so that each field can carry out its duties and responsibilities in accordance with the provisions that have been set in the implementation of PPDB *Online* at MAN 1 East Aceh.

Implementation of Online New Student Admissions at MAN 1 East Aceh

The implementation of Online New Student Admissions (PPDB) at MAN 1 East Aceh is carried out according to the schedule set by the school. The implementation of PPDB began with socialization activities to the community and schools at the junior high school/MTs level, then continued with the registration process of new students through *the Online* system using Google Form. Through this system, prospective students fill in their personal data and upload the required files according to the selected registration path.

In the implementation of PPDB *Online*, the school opened three pathways for accepting new students, namely the achievement pathway, the regular pathway, and the affirmation pathway. The achievement path is intended for students who have academic and non-academic achievements, the regular path is intended for general students, while the affirmation path is intended for students with certain conditions according to school regulations.

Based on the results of interviews with the committee and PPDB operators, the selection process in the three paths did not have too much difference. The difference only lies in the completeness of the files that must be attached by prospective students. On the achievement path, students attach an achievement certificate as an additional requirement, while on the affirmation path, the school looks at the work data of the parents and the student's family card. Meanwhile, the regular path follows the general requirements that have been set by the school.

Use of Google Form as the main platform of PPDB *Online* at MAN 1 East Aceh is a realistic and affordable digitalization step for madrasas. However, it is necessary to critically acknowledge that Google Forms is essentially a simple data collection tool that is not equipped with integrated management information system features, such as automatic data filtering by path, digital document verification, and standardized data security management (Fahrozi et al., 2022). This is in line with the view (Astahadi et al., 2025) that digital transformation in educational institutions is not enough just by adopting basic technology, but requires a more comprehensive management information system to support the accuracy, security, and efficiency of data management in a sustainable manner. Therefore, in the future, MAN 1 East Aceh is advised to consider the development of a more integrated PPDB system, for example through a special web-based application equipped with automatic route sorting features, digital document verification, and more adequate registrant data protection.

In the implementation of PPDB *Online*, the school also adjusts the admission of new students to the available school capacity. The capacity is adjusted to the condition of school facilities and infrastructure, such as classrooms, the availability of mobile phones, and the number of educators at MAN 1 East Aceh.

Based on the results of interviews with PPDB operators, the selection process for new students is not carried out strictly if the number of registrants has not exceeded the quota set by the school. As long as the number of applicants is still below the school's

capacity, all students who register can be accepted. However, if the number of applicants exceeds the admission quota, the school will conduct a selection by looking at the student's report card scores as a consideration in the process of accepting new students.

Implementation of PPDB *Online* at MAN 1 East Aceh was also carried out through two waves of registration. Registration will remain open as long as the student quota has not been met. In addition, the school does not set a closure based on a specific date, but based on the fulfillment of the quota for new student admissions.

In the process of implementing PPDB *Online*, the committee also checked the completeness of the students' files. If there is an error or lack of files, the committee will contact the prospective student through the phone number that has been included on the registration form to complete the data or files that are still missing.

After the students are declared to have passed, the school carries out a re-registration process ahead of the start of the new school year. Based on the results of the interview, the re-registration process was carried out with the same provisions for all new student admission pathways.

These findings are in line with research (Hermawan Hermawan, Sukmawati Sukmawati, & Wahyudi Wahyudi, 2022) which explains that the implementation of PPDB *Online* carried out through several stages, namely student registration *Online*, data verification by the school committee, student data processing, announcement of selection results, and the process of re-registering new students. The study also explains that the implementation of PPDB *Online* It is carried out based on the accepted path that has been determined and involves the principal, vice principal for student affairs, the executive committee, and the school operator in its implementation.

Supervision and Monitoring of Online New Student Admissions at MAN 1 East Aceh

Supervision of New Student Admissions (PPDB) *Online* at MAN 1 East Aceh is carried out by the principal together with the PPDB committee to ensure that the entire PPDB implementation process runs in accordance with the stipulated provisions. Supervision is carried out starting from the registration process, file checking, student data verification, to the process of re-registering new students. In line with opinion (Rahmawati Aullia & Muflhatin Muflihatin, 2019) that in the implementation of PPDB, coordination and communication are needed by the principal and the executive committee to monitor the implementation of PPDB so that the process of accepting new students can run in accordance with the policies and provisions that have been set.

Based on the results of interviews with school principals, if there are obstacles in the implementation of PPDB *Online*, then the school and the committee will discuss and solve problems together. The supervision and monitoring is carried out so that any obstacles that occur during the implementation of PPDB can be resolved immediately. In addition, the school also monitors the digital system used in the implementation of PPDB *Online*. Based on the results of the interviews, it is known that the *Online* In the previous

year, it had been used, but it had not run optimally. Therefore, the school is trying to increase the use of digital systems in the next PPDB implementation so that the process of accepting new students can run better.

The madrasah also supervises the committee's services to prospective students and the community during the PPDB process. Based on the results of the interview, the school is trying to improve the committee's services to be more friendly and able to provide good service to the community during the registration process for new students.

In addition to supervising services, the madrasah also evaluated various obstacles that occurred in the implementation of the previous PPDB. The evaluation was carried out as material for improvement in the implementation of PPDB *Online* in the following year so that the system of implementation, service, and the process of accepting new students can run better.

The results of this study reveal that the management of New Student Admissions (PPDB) in a systematic manner *Online* at MAN 1 East Aceh is carried out through several stages of management, namely planning, organizing, implementing, as well as supervision and monitoring. All of these stages involve various madrasah parties, so that the implementation of PPDB *Online* can run well and in accordance with the goals that have been set. Through these management stages, the process of accepting new students at MAN 1 East Aceh becomes more directed, simplifying services to prospective students, and assisting the school in regulating the PPDB implementation process *Online*. This is in line with previous research (Alfiyanto Afif, 2022) and (Winarto Hadi, Hamzah Syukri Ifani, & Nur Nadia, 2022) which states that the implementation of PPDB in madrasahs is carried out in a structured manner through the stages of registration, selection, announcement, and re-registration to support the effectiveness and smooth process of accepting new students.

Based on the results of the analysis of the aspects of planning, organizing, implementing, and supervising the admission of new students online based on achievements, regulars, and affirmations at MAN 1 East Aceh, it can be concluded that all of these stages form a structured, coordinated, and interrelated management unit. Each stage of PPDB management contributes to supporting the smooth process of accepting new students through the *Online* system, starting from careful planning, clear committee organization, implementation through three admission channels simultaneously, to continuous supervision and evaluation. The involvement of all madrasahs, PPDB committees, and external partners also supports the creation of new student admission services that are more effective, transparent, and able to ensure equitable access to education at MAN 1 East Aceh. To clarify the relationship between these stages, the following is presented a conceptual model of the research results.

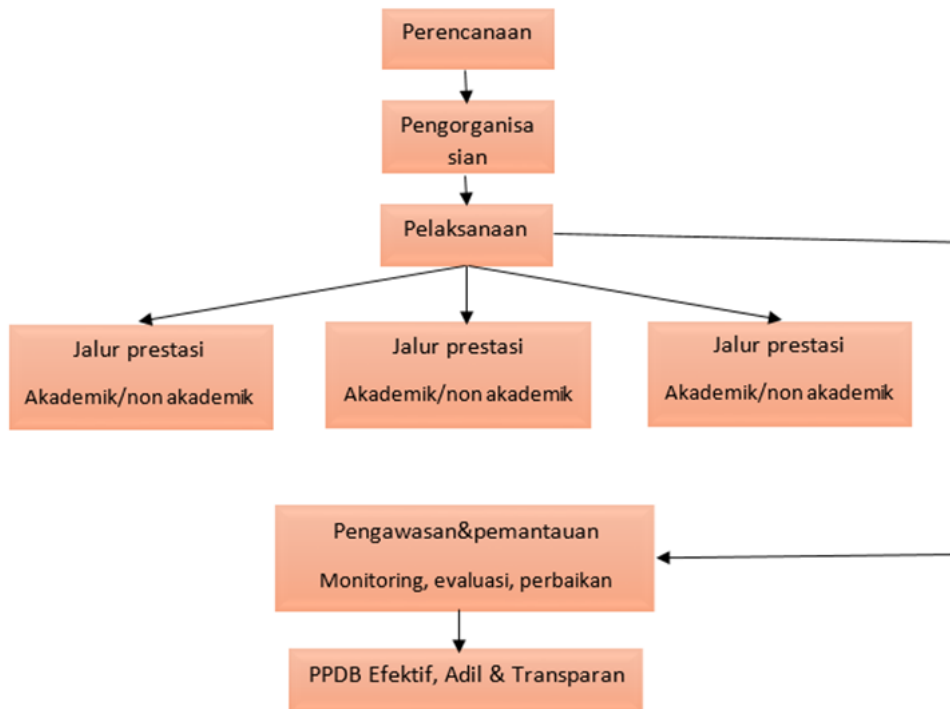


Figure 1: Conceptual Model of Online New Student Admission Management (PPDB) at MAN 1 East Aceh

The image above illustrates the conceptual model of online New Student Admission (PPDB) management at MAN 1 East Aceh which is carried out through the stages of planning, organizing, and implementing in a structured manner. At the implementation stage, the student admission process is carried out through several admission paths, such as achievement, regular, and affirmation pathways in accordance with school regulations. Furthermore, all of these stages are carried out in a coordinated manner by the school and the PPDB committee to support the smooth process of accepting new students through *the Online* system. With structured management and continuous supervision, the implementation of PPDB *Online* at MAN 1 East Aceh is expected to be able to create an effective, fair, and targeted student admission process.

Conclusion

Management of New Student Admissions (PPDB) Online achievement-based, regular, and affirmation activities at MAN 1 East Aceh have been carried out through the stages of planning, organizing, implementing, as well as supervision and monitoring that run in a structured and coordinated manner. The implementation of PPDB uses Google Form through three admission channels, where file verification is carried out manually by the operator to ensure the completeness and suitability of documents in each channel. The uniqueness of PPDB management at MAN 1 East Aceh lies in the formal cooperation that has been established for many years with one dayah and one orphanage as a provider of housing for students from outside the region, which reflects the commitment

of madrasas in ensuring equitable access to education in an inclusive manner. Therefore, madrasas are advised to develop a more integrated PPDB system to replace the use of Google Forms which are still simple, and continue to improve socialization, services, and supervision so that the implementation of PPDB in the future can run more effectively, efficiently, and safely.

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