



## Extracurricular Management to Enhance Understanding of the Holy Scriptures

Jailani Syahputra Siregar<sup>1(\*)</sup>, Abd. Mukti<sup>2</sup>, Amiruddin Siahaan<sup>3</sup>  
<sup>1,2,3</sup>North Sumatra State Islamic University, Medan, Indonesia

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### Abstract

This research aims to determine the management of extracurricular activities aimed at increasing understanding of the holy book at Technical Implementing Service Units of State Elementary Schools in South Labuhanbatu Regency. Methodologically, this research adopts an interactive qualitative approach, utilizing data collection techniques such as document study, interviews, and observations. The findings of this study reveal that the Education Office of South Labuhanbatu Regency, located in North Sumatra province carried out planning through deliberations/meetings. The organizing of extracurricular is done by developing and delegating tasks professionally and proportionally. It is necessary to delegate tasks so that each team member can understand the function of their main tasks and responsibilities, ensuring they are entrusted with their roles. This approach prevents extracurricular management from becoming chaotic and ensures that everyone works according to their assigned tasks. The implementation is carried out by the Regional Government, in this case the South Labuhanbatu Regency Education Service, by providing guidance, direction, advice and motivation. In this case, the leadership always provides good guidance to all related elements, provides positive direction, provides constructive advice, and motivates all related elements, especially school principals and teachers, in carrying out their duties to always be kind. Meanwhile, supervision is carried out by the Regional Government, in this case the South Labuhanbatu Regency Education Service, by monitoring, supervising and evaluating the plans that have been implemented. In this case, the leadership consistently monitors the implementation of plans to ensure adherence to guidelines and effectiveness. Leaders always evaluate things that are considered not on track. Leaders at every level always go directly into the field to see directly the existing objects.

**Keywords:** management, extracurriculars, understanding, scriptures

(\*) Corresponding Author: [jailani@gmail.com](mailto:jailani@gmail.com)

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## INTRODUCTION

Extracurricular activities in primary and secondary education are character building activities which aim to develop potential, skills, interests, talents and personality. Compulsory extracurricular activities are lessons arranged in lesson units that all students must take part in (Minister of Education and Culture, 2014). Mandatory extracurricular activities that will be considered also include activities that strengthen the good and correct reading of the Koran. Extracurricular activities can also be carried out independently in the sense that they can be developed and organized by study units and in which students can participate in accordance with



the curriculum (Yulianti, 2018) . Each school or madrasah has the option to develop different fields such as: extracurricular arts, sports, science, religion, and so on. Extracurricular activities provide opportunities for students to develop their potential, this has a positive impact on strengthening student character development (Amri, 2018) . In fact, all schools and madrasas are required to organize extracurricular activities to encourage the development of students' skills and interests. Therefore, extracurricular activities must be planned and managed well in order to achieve the stated goals (Nuryanto, 2017) .

Extracurricular activities in elementary school are organized according to the principle of “active participation”. This means that extracurricular activities require full participation according to the student's interests and decisions (Syahfitri, 2024) . To achieve what is called success, you need an effort and a way to achieve it, so that here this extracurricular activity can be used as a means to gain knowledge and broaden students' horizons which can later be correlated with learning in the classroom, so that it can have a good impact on student achievement. These extracurricular activities are considered to have a role in education and are related to curriculum progress and daily life.

The purpose of extracurricular activities is to expand students' knowledge and critical thinking skills, as well as their interests and skills in hobbies and other extracurricular activities (Supiani, Muryati, & Saefulloh, 2020) , as well as their attitudes towards extracurricular and co-curricular activities. Extracurricular activities as a forum for developing students' potential can have a positive effect in strengthening character education. The study unit has the obligation to organize extracurricular activities as a means of encouraging the development of student skills and interests. Therefore, extracurricular activities must be managed systematically and well so that they lead to achieving the goals that have been set (Saputra, Rahmatullisa, Afifah, & Arwan, 2023) .

In this case, the government has introduced an extracurricular activity requiring all elementary school children to learn proper and correct recitation of the Quran, according to the principles of tajwid. Tajwid is the science of reciting the Quran accurately, considering pronunciation, articulation, and phonetics. This initiative aims to prevent an increase in the number of individuals who are unable to recite the Quran accurately and correctly (Syafuruddin, 2021). The South Labuhanbatu Regency Government responded to this by implementing a policy of extracurricular activities aimed at enhancing understanding of the Quran among each Technical Implementing Service Unit. South Labuhanbatu Regency State Elementary School.

The results of an effective program formulation to create a generation of Muslims who can read the Koran according to the science of recitation. It's not just being able to read it, like most Muslims today, which is very worrying. For the author, this extracurricular activity regarding the program to increase understanding of the holy book, which has been running since 2018 until now, is a program that is very rarely found in other regions, it could be said to be the first program in the province of North Sumatra. Thus, the program shows that regional heads hold a central position in advancing the region and in making government decisions for the interests of the community.

Extracurricular activities to increase understanding of the holy book organized by the South Labuhanbatu Regency government, in this case the South Labuhanbatu Regency Education Office, are a realization of the aspirations of the majority of the community who hope that children will be able to read the Koran well and correctly at the earliest possible age. This Regional Regulation really answers the community's hopes, namely the birth of a generation of Muslims who are not backward in reading the Koran. Of course, the local government of South Labuhanbatu Regency has received very good appreciation due to the well running of extracurricular activities to increase understanding of the Technical Implementing Service Unit holy book. Public Elementary School in South Labuhanbatu Regency with the authority of the South Labuhanbatu Regency government. The authority of the South Labuhanbatu Regency government is focused on crucial matters, namely considering that the majority of Muslims are unable to read the Koran properly and correctly, which some people may consider not very important.

Ongoing extracurricular activities to increase understanding of the UPTD holy book. South Labuhanbatu Regency Public Elementary School certainly has a good management role applied to the program in every aspect that supports the success of the program. The management process is very important for every organization or institution, especially for educational institutions, so that the planned goals can be successful within the specified time period (Ayunisa & Sholeh, 2022) . However, on the other hand, when an organization or institution is created by a group of people without management, the organization or institution created will not be able to achieve its goals. (Adawiah, Munawwarah, Amalia, Hasibuan, & Akmalia, 2023) .

Several research results reveal that the implementation of policies increases understanding of the Islamic holy book by coordinating, monitoring and evaluating teachers (Harahap, 2021) . In addition, research results (Fajrin, 2023) showed that strategies such as group discussions, Tadarus Al-Qur'an (reciting and studying the Quran), Istighosah (supplication gatherings), and Al-Banjari (traditional Islamic music and chanting) shape student character where Islamic Religious Education teachers and extracurricular trainers play an important role. The implementation of reading and writing the Qur'an extracurricular activities is held to instill the character of discipline and responsibility in students (Azima, Damanik, & Nabilah, 2024) . The implementation of BTQ extracurriculars also helps students to gradually become more fluent in reading the Al-Qur'an and motivates them to be more diligent in participating in TPA in their respective home environments (Putra & Bustami, 2023) .

Based on the results of the observations and relevant research mentioned above, this research directly aims to see how extracurricular management increases understanding of the UPTD holy book. South Labuhanbatu Regency State Elementary School . This will ensure that research results have a significant impact and can provide valuable insights for educational practitioners and also to all related agencies, to pay more attention to extracurricular management to increase understanding of the holy book Al-Quran .

## METHODS

This research is based on qualitative methods . This research was carried out by means of observation, interviews, documentation and approaching the South Labuhanbatu district government, in this case the Head of the South Labuhanbatu District Education Office who was the main informant. This research focused on finding the phenomenon of extracurricular management in increasing understanding of the Islamic holy book UPTD. South Labuhanbatu Regency State Elementary School. The primary data is the results of interviews with the Regent, Deputy Regent, Head of the Education Service, School Principals, and teachers to increase understanding of the holy Koran at Public Elementary Schools throughout South Labuhanbatu Regency. Meanwhile, secondary data in this research includes attendance, photos of teachers and students' teaching and learning activities, and others. The data analysis carried out in this research is adjusted to the stages, namely data reduction, data display, concluding drawing/verification (Miles, MB & Huberman, 1984) . Data validity testing techniques are data validity checking techniques that use something else for checking purposes or as a comparison of the data. Testing the validity of the data in this research uses extended observations, persistence of observations, and triangulation (Moleong, 2018).

## RESULTS & DISCUSSION

### **Extracurricular Planning to Increase Understanding of the Holy Koran**

To verify the implementation of planning by the Regent, Head of the Education Service, District Education Coordinators, Heads of State Elementary School UPTDs, and teachers from the APBD PKS UPTDs in South Labuhanbatu Regency, the following comprehensive excerpts from the researcher's interview with the Regent of South Labuhanbatu for the periods 2011-2016 and 2016-2021 are presented:

*"To create society in general and students in particular who have knowledge and understanding of the holy books including the Koran for those who are Muslim, then in forming people who believe and are devoted to God Almighty Allah SWT and further to have noble character and physical health and spiritually, what is done is to increase the number of non-formal educators/teachers in extracurricular activity programs related to Islamic religion. At the start of implementation, the program still utilized Koran teachers in homes and mosques with a total of approximately 1,000 teaching staff. However, based on surveys and evaluations after one year of running, the program was reviewed again because it was less effective and less efficient. "Therefore, to make the extracurricular program more effective and more efficient, a Regional Regulation was issued and a joint agreement between the DPRD and the Regent of South Labuhanbatu Regency regarding Increasing Understanding of the Holy Scriptures."*

From the explanation above, it is clear that the existence of extracurricular programs to increase understanding of the holy Koran is based on clear and directed planning. The South Labuhanbatu Regency Government has prepared plans as part of managerial qualifications for an extracurricular program to increase understanding of the holy book Al-Quran. The reasons for holding the extracurricular program to increase understanding of the holy book Al-Quran were conveyed in an interview with the Head of the Education Service:

*"The issuance of the Regional Regulation to increase understanding of the holy Koran is a maximum and serious effort to reduce the percentage of Muslims who are unable to read the Koran properly and correctly, especially in the South*

*Labuhanbatu area. "The efforts carried out are fundamental and preventive because the object is elementary school (SD) children who are focused on improving and being able to read the Koran well and correctly."*

Regarding extracurricular programs, increasing understanding of the holy book Al-Quran is certainly a reference for accurate data regarding the planning carried out. The Regional Coordinator of Kampung Rakyat District also stated that:

*"Indeed, this must be preceded by planning. Of course, this planning comes from several backgrounds and is then outlined in Regional Regulations specifically regulating the Extracurricular Program for Increasing Understanding of the Holy Koran. "The Extracurricular Planning Program to Increase Understanding of the Holy Koran has been written in Regional Regulation Number 10 of 2015, South Labuhanbatu Regency."*

Meanwhile, interview with the Head of UPTD. SD Negeri 03 Aek Goti said:

*"As a school principal, I strongly agree with the Extracurricular Program to Increase Understanding of the Holy Koran which was created based on the planning contained in the Regional Regulations. The existence of this Regional Regulation ensures that this program will run as it should. And all students are required to take part in this extracurricular activity."*

Based on interviews with several participants above, it is clear that the extracurricular program to increase understanding of the holy book Al-Quran has been planned clearly and neatly, namely based on the vision, mission, goals and objectives of the South Labuhanbatu Regency Government/Education Service, Republic of Indonesia Government Regulation Number 55 of 2007 concerning Religious Education and Religious Education and South Labuhanbatu Regency Regional Regulation Number 10 of 2015. The specific findings of this research explain that several extracurricular plans have been prepared to increase understanding of the holy book Al-Quran UPTD. South Labuhanbatu Regency State Elementary School. Thus, everything that wants to be realized must be planned first (Bararah, 2017). There are many definitions mentioned about planning, where planning is a view of the future and creates a framework to direct one's actions in the future (Siahaan, 2023). The planning prepared by the Regional Government of South Labuhanbatu Regency, in this case the South Labuhanbatu Regency Education Service, is of course carried out at an official meeting between the Regional Government, The Regional Representative Council (DRPD) and related elements from the South Labuhanbatu Regency area, with the aim that at this meeting everything that is planned can be discussed properly so that in harmony with the Koran Surah Ashura verse 38.

وَالَّذِينَ اسْتَجَابُوا لِرَبِّهِمْ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَمْرُهُمْ شُورَىٰ بَيْنَهُمْ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنفِقُونَ ٣٨

“(juga lebih baik dan lebih kekal bagi) orang-orang yang menerima (mematuhi) seruan Tuhan dan melaksanakan salat, sedangkan urusan mereka (diputuskan) dengan musyawarah di antara mereka. Mereka menginfakkan sebagian dari rezeki yang Kami anugerahkan kepada mereka”.

### **Extracurricular Organizing to Increase Understanding of the Holy Koran**

With a good division of work and delegation of tasks, proper delegation of authority and responsibility and remembering the principles of organization, it is hoped that the extracurricular program to increase understanding of the holy Koran will run smoothly and the goals can be achieved, an interview was conducted with one of the elementary school teachers with the initials FH, revealed that:

*"It is very necessary to organize this extracurricular program. "Organizing extracurricular activities to increase understanding of the holy book of the Koran is*

*carried out by delegating tasks and delegating work to related parties, namely the Regional Coordinators for District Education, elementary school supervisors, principals of SDN schools and teachers for Increasing Understanding of the Holy Koran."*

The statement above is in line with what was explained by the Regional Coordinator for Education in Sungai Kanan District, that:

*"The Head of the South Labuhanbatu Regency Education Service is organizing an extracurricular program to increase understanding of the holy Koran, as an extension of the planning that has been carried out. Systemically, these authorities and duties have been integrated with us, Regional Coordinators for Education in each sub-district so that they can be carried out well. "Furthermore, we will delegate this task to the sub-district elementary school supervisors and to the heads of elementary school schools in the sub-district."*

Next, an interview with a teacher to increase understanding of the holy Koran regarding its organization explained that:

*"I know that this extracurricular program to increase understanding of the holy book the Koran is based on Regional Regulation Number 10 of 2015 which is carried out by the South Labuhanbatu Regency Education Office, then to the sub-district Regional Education Coordinators, then the UPTD Supervisors. State Elementary School, then the Heads of UPTD. Public Elementary Schools and then to teachers to Improve Understanding of the Holy Koran. The main object of impact of the benefits of this program are the students."*

In the extracurricular program, increasing understanding of the holy Koran in organizing is also adjusted to the talents, knowledge and experience of each individual member of the organization. The aim of this is so that the plans that have been prepared can be realized. Then an organizational structure is formed so that who knows what their duties are. The programs that have been planned and the management has been arranged show that the Head of the South Labuhanbatu Regency Education Service has carried out planning and organizing the programs mentioned above, of course with the aim of improving the quality of madrasas in general and improving the quality of teachers in particular.

### **Implementation of extracurricular activities to increase understanding of the Holy Koran**

Planning without delegation of tasks means the plan will not be achieved. Likewise, if plans have been prepared, tasks have also been assigned, but there is no implementation then the results will be nil. The extracurricular implementation of Increasing Understanding of the Holy Koran has been carried out as appropriate by the Regional Government of South Labuhanbatu Regency . In fact, in implementation, there has been organization. This is an excerpt from an interview with the Head of the Education Service, he explained:

*"Implementing extracurricular activities to increase understanding of the holy Koran, which have been planned, starting from the planning contained in Regional Regulation Number 10 of 2015 concerning Extracurriculars to Increase Understanding of the Holy Koran, then organizing is carried out from the Head of the Education Service to the teachers. Furthermore, extracurricular activities related to increasing understanding of the holy Koran begin with the recruitment of teaching staff or teachers by announcing the recruitment of teaching staff, then prospective teachers are required to take written and oral exams. Priority for prospective teachers who have a degree in Islamic Religious Education with the*

*requirement that they must master the science of tajwid and be tested first by the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) South Labuhanbatu Regency. After going through written and oral tests, they are then appointed as teachers and assigned/adjusted to the closest address of each student. "Furthermore, carry out Teaching and Learning Activities (KBM) according to the specified schedule after completing intracurricular lesson hours as appropriate."*

Through these interviews, the extracurricular program to increase understanding of the holy book Al-Quran has been implemented well in accordance with Teaching and Learning Activities. This was also clarified by the Regional Coordinator for Education in Kotapinang sub-district that:

*"The implementation of the extracurricular program to increase understanding of the holy book Al-Quran during extra-curricular hours certainly does not interfere with extra-curricular learning hours. This shows that the policy issued by the Regional Government of South Labuhanbatu Regency clearly provides input for religious learning, including Islam, especially with the aim of students being able to read the Al-Quran accurately."*

From the findings above, the implementation is carried out by the Head of the Education Service, the General Secretary, the Head of the General Subdivision, the Regional Coordinators in the sub-district Education sector, the UPTD Supervisors. State Elementary School, Teachers Improve Understanding of the Holy Koran UPTD. South Labuhanbatu Regency Public Elementary School by providing direction, reminding, influencing and motivating programs that have been previously planned. This implementation shows the leader's concern for subordinates in the downward hierarchy. The results of the implementation of the policy being evaluated will produce expected results (intended) or unexpected results (negative spillover effect). So it can be concluded that every policy that is implemented will have an impact (Jann and Wegrich, 2007). For this reason, the government has an obligation to monitor policy implementation through program design and structuring the implementation process. This can be seen from the results of interviews, observations and researcher documentation data with the Head of the Education Service, General Secretary, Head of General Subdivision, District Education Regional Coordinators, UPTD Supervisors. State Elementary School, Teachers Improve Understanding of the Holy Koran UPTD. South Labuhanbatu Regency State Elementary School.

### **Extracurricular Supervision to Increase Understanding of the Holy Koran**

With supervision, the implementation of extracurricular programs to increase understanding of the holy Koran can be even better. In this case, the Head of the South Labuhanbatu Regency Service said:

*"Supervision typically follows a hierarchical path from the Head of Service to the Regional Coordinator for Education, down to the UPTD supervisor, and further to the State Elementary School level. But it's not always like that. "There have also been cases where the Regent went directly to schools, from the Head of Department directly to the teachers, from the Regional Coordinator for Education in the sub-district directly to the teachers and so on."*

In supervisory duties, a family attitude, good communication, exchanging information and other positive things are always prioritized. The next interview was conducted with the Head of UPTD. SD Negeri 01 Pekan Tolan revealed that:

*"I am the Head of UPTD. SD Negeri 01 Pekan Tolan, in terms of internally monitoring teacher performance, always prioritizes kinship, considering these*

*teachers to be good partners in achieving school goals and prioritizing the principle of kindness. With hope and real action so that teachers have good responsibility and discipline."*

Through the interview above, it can be seen that the Regional Government of South Labuhanbatu Regency reaches the Head of UPTD. State Elementary Schools have supervised extracurricular programs to increase understanding of the holy book Al-Quran which have been carried out periodically. This can be seen from the Head of UPTD. Public Elementary Schools directly ordered teachers to take part in the program and also attend training activities to increase competency in the program that had been created, making it easier to monitor attendance as the program progressed.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that the extracurricular program aimed at enhancing understanding of the holy scriptures of the Koran at UPTD State Elementary Schools in South Labuhanbatu Regency has been comprehensively designed and implemented. The planning of this program involved various stakeholders, from the Regent and the Head of the Department of Education to District Education Coordinators and the participating teachers. The well-structured planning is evident through the issuance of specific Regional Regulations, and its execution has considered effective organizational aspects, including structured organization and appropriate task delegation. Implementation of the program adheres to extracurricular schedules that do not interfere with regular curricular hours, as stipulated. Regular monitoring of the program at various levels—from regional government oversight to individual school supervision—ensures its effectiveness and alignment with established objectives. Overall, the research demonstrates that the program successfully integrates Islamic education aspects into formal education, aiming to significantly enhance Quranic literacy among students.

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