

## The Role of the School Committee in Improving the Quality of Education at Tegalgede Muhammadiyah Elementary School

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### Abstract:

This study aims to analyze the role of the school committee in improving the quality of education at SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede, focusing on the challenges and strategies faced. The research method used is qualitative with a case study approach, where data were collected through in-depth interviews, observation, and document studies. The results show that the school committee plays a role as an advisory, supporting, controlling, and mediating body in enhancing educational quality. The committee is actively involved in providing policy recommendations, fundraising, ensuring financial transparency, and facilitating communication between the school, parents, and the community. However, the main challenges include parental protests over high school fees and dissatisfaction with the quality of school services. To address these issues, the school committee reevaluated the school fees, improved financial transparency, and trained teachers and staff to be more responsive to the needs of students and parents. This study concludes that the role of the school committee is crucial in improving educational quality, although further efforts are needed to enhance parental participation and address resource limitations.

**Keywords:** School Committee, Educational Quality, Community Participation, Educational Challenges, SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede.

### Introduction

Education is a key factor in building quality and competitive human resources. Through good education, individuals can develop their intellectual, social and moral potential optimally. According to Sutrisno (2019), education not only functions as a means of transferring knowledge, but also as a tool for forming character and noble values in society. However, the reality on the ground shows that the quality of education in Indonesia still faces various challenges. One indicator that illustrates this condition is the results of the 2022 Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), which places Indonesia in 74th place out of 81 countries in terms of literacy, numeracy and science. This data shows that the Indonesian education system still needs improvement, both in

terms of quality of learning, teaching staff, and support from other educational environments.

Schools as formal educational institutions have a very important role in the learning process. However, schools cannot stand alone in realizing quality education. Community participation, especially parents, has a significant contribution in supporting educational success at school. One form of community participation in the world of education is through school committees. The school committee is an organization consisting of the school principal, teachers, parents of students and the surrounding community whose task is to assist the school in designing, supervising and evaluating educational programs (Mulyasa, 2018). The existence of a school committee aims to bridge the interests of the school and the community in order to create effective collaboration in improving the quality of education.

The quality of education is one of the fundamental aspects of the education system that determines the success of the learning process and educational output. According to Sallis (2015), the quality of education can be measured through various indicators such as student academic achievement, learning effectiveness, and the availability of adequate educational facilities. In the context of elementary schools, the quality of education is very dependent on the involvement of various parties, including teachers, school principals, parents and the community. The school committee has a strategic role in helping the school achieve its educational goals.

According to Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System, school committees are tasked with providing consideration of educational policies, supporting improvements in facilities and infrastructure, and encouraging transparency and accountability in school management. Mulyasa (2018) stated that the active involvement of school committees can contribute to increasing the effectiveness of educational programs, especially in the management and management aspects of school resources.

One of the relevant previous studies is research conducted by Rahayu and Hidayat (2021) which examined the role of school committees in improving the quality of education in elementary schools. The research found that parent participation in school committees is still low, with only 30% of parents actively involved in school activities. Apart from that, limited resources, such as funds, facilities, and understanding of the role of school committees, are also major obstacles. What this research has in common with research conducted by Rahayu and Hidayat (2021) lies in its focus on the role of school committees in improving the quality of education and the factors that influence its effectiveness.

However, this research is different because it examines two schools with different economic backgrounds, namely SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede, where the majority of students come from the lower middle class and SD Aisyiyah Surya Ceria Karanganyar, where the majority of students come from the upper middle class. This difference is an interesting aspect to research because it has the potential to influence patterns of parental

involvement, resource management strategies, and the effectiveness of programs run by school committees.

Apart from that, this research also examines the different roles used by school committees in improving the quality of education in each school. In schools with limited resources, the school committee may focus more on optimizing available funds and building partnerships with external parties to support educational programs. Meanwhile, in schools with more resources, school committees may focus more on strengthening the curriculum, improving learning facilities, and involving parents in academic and extracurricular enrichment programs.

In accordance with the background that has been explained, the author is very interested in researching and turning it into a scientific work regarding the role of school committees in improving the quality of education at SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede. It is hoped that this research can make a contribution to the world of education, especially in optimizing the role of school committees in supporting improving the quality of education. Apart from that, it is also hoped that the results of this research can become a reference for the government, schools and society in formulating education policies that are more inclusive and oriented towards improving the quality of learning at the elementary school level.

## **Research Methods**

The research method used in this research is qualitative with a case study approach, which aims to describe the role of the school committee in improving the quality of education at SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede. The types of data collected consisted of primary and secondary data, where primary data was obtained through in-depth interviews with school principals, teachers, school committee members, and students' parents, while secondary data was obtained from school documents such as activity reports, work plans, and archives of school committee meetings. Data collection was carried out through observation, interviews and documentation studies. The collected data is then processed using qualitative data analysis techniques, namely data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. Conclusions are drawn inductively based on patterns and themes that emerge from the data, taking into account the school's socio-economic context and comparison with previous research findings, resulting in an in-depth understanding of the role of school committees in improving the quality of education.

## **Results And Discussion**

### **1. The Role of the Tegalgede Muhammadiyah Elementary School Committee in Improving the Quality of Education**

Based on the research results, the school committee at SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede has a very important role in improving the quality of education in schools. This role includes several main aspects, namely as a consideration body (*advisory*

agency), supporting bodies (*supporting agency*), controlling body (*controlling agency*), as well as a mediator (*mediator agency*). Each of these roles has a significant contribution in supporting school policy and management and ensuring that the education provided to students is of higher quality.

As a consideration body (*advisory agency*), the school committee plays a role in providing input on various educational policies implemented at SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede. The research results show that the school committee is actively involved in preparing learning programs, determining school budget priorities, and evaluating the curriculum used. One concrete example of this involvement is the school committee's recommendation for additional study hours for certain subjects and the provision of remedial programs for students who have difficulty understanding the material.

Furthermore, as a supporting body (*supporting agency*), school committees have a role in raising funds and providing additional resources to improve school facilities. Based on the research results, the school committee has succeeded in initiating fundraising from students' parents and collaborating with various external institutions to support school needs, such as renovating classrooms, procuring learning aids, and providing reference books for students and teachers. This effort shows that school committees have a real contribution in helping schools overcome operational budget limitations.

In its role as a controlling body (*controlling agency*), the school committee plays a role in ensuring transparency and accountability in school financial management. Research findings show that the school committee carries out regular evaluations of financial reports and holds regular meetings with school principals and teacher representatives to review the effectiveness of the educational programs that have been implemented. This monitoring aims to ensure that the available budget is actually used according to student needs and improves the quality of education in schools.

In addition, as a mediator (*mediator agency*), the school committee acts as a liaison between the school, parents and the community in supporting the provision of education. The research results show that the school committee plays a role in bridging communication between the school and parents, especially in socializing school policies, capturing parents' aspirations, and helping to resolve problems that occur in the school environment.

## **2. Challenges Faced by School Committees in Improving the Quality of Education**

Based on the research results, the school committee at SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede faces several challenges in carrying out its role in improving the quality of education. The main challenges identified include parental protests regarding tuition fees and dissatisfaction with the quality of school services.

One of the most prominent challenges is parents' complaints regarding the amount of tuition fees which are considered too high. Many parents feel that these

fees are burdensome, especially for those who have economic limitations or have more than one child attending SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede. Some parents also stated that the tuition fees paid were not commensurate with the educational facilities and services provided by the school.

Apart from that, another challenge faced is complaints regarding the quality of school services. Several parents highlighted the school's lack of responsiveness in handling complaints submitted, both regarding academic and non-academic issues. Slow communication between schools and parents is also one of the factors that causes dissatisfaction, giving rise to doubts about the transparency and accountability of school management. Some parents also believe that teachers do not pay enough attention to students' needs, which results in a lack of learning effectiveness.

To overcome these challenges, the school committee together with the school have tried various solutions. One way is to re-evaluate the amount of tuition fees and open a space for dialogue with parents to listen to their complaints and input directly. The school committee also implements a more flexible payment system, such as providing installment options or fee waivers for parents experiencing financial difficulties.

In the aspect of improving services, the school and the committee have attempted to increase transparency by providing regular financial reports to parents. Apart from that, socialization regarding the importance of tuition fees in supporting school operations was also carried out to increase parents' understanding of the management of education funds. Other efforts made include training for teachers and staff to be more responsive to student needs and parent complaints. Schools are also opening more effective communication channels, such as through WhatsApp groups and regular meetings, to ensure that any complaints can be followed up immediately.

## **Discussion**

### **1. The Role of the Tegalgede Muhammadiyah Elementary School Committee in Improving the Quality of Education**

The results of this research strengthen the findings of Mulyasa (2018) which states that the involvement of school committees in decision making can increase the effectiveness of education policies. In the context of SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede, the school committee has played a role in providing recommendations regarding learning policies. However, in its implementation, there are still obstacles in the form of limited understanding of some committee members regarding the technical aspects of education, so that the recommendations given are sometimes not based on strong data.

In addition, the school committee's active participation in financial aspects has helped the school overcome operational budget limitations. This finding is in line with research conducted by Rahayu and Hidayat (2021), which shows that the involvement of school committees in funding can improve the quality of education.

However, there is a gap in parental contributions, where not all students' parents have sufficient economic capacity to support school funding.

In its role as a controlling body, a study conducted by Sallis (2015) shows that the supervision carried out by the school committee on school finances greatly influences the effectiveness of resource use. However, the main obstacle in this aspect is the lack of understanding of some committee members in reading school financial reports, so that the supervision carried out is still not fully optimal.

Furthermore, in its role as mediator, the school committee has attempted to bridge communication between the school and the students' parents. However, low parent participation in school committees remains a significant challenge. This is in line with the findings of Rahayu and Hidayat (2021), who stated that parental involvement in school committees is often low, especially in schools with lower-middle economic backgrounds. Therefore, there needs to be a more effective strategy in increasing parental awareness and participation, for example through community-based outreach programs and a more personalized approach.

## **2. Challenges Faced by the School Committee in Improving the Quality of Education at Tegalgede Muhammadiyah Elementary School**

The findings of this research are in line with several previous studies which show that the main challenges in managing community-based schools are often related to economic factors and transparency of educational services (Mulyasa, 2018). Parents' protests against tuition fees which are considered too high show that there is a gap between expectations and reality in the management of community-based private schools. A study conducted by Rahayu and Hidayat (2021) also revealed that parents' dissatisfaction with the use of school funds can reduce their level of participation in supporting educational programs. Therefore, efforts to increase transparency and communication carried out by the school committee at SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede are relevant steps in increasing public trust in school management.

In addition, the lack of school responsiveness in handling parental complaints is a challenge that often occurs in private school environments (Sallis, 2015). Limited communication between schools and parents can hinder their involvement in educational decision making. Therefore, the strategies implemented by the school committee at SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede, such as the formation of a supervisory team and the use of digital platforms for communication, are in line with the recommendations of experts who emphasize the importance of transparency and parental involvement in school management.

The school committee's efforts to re-evaluate tuition fees and provide more flexible payment options show that dialogue and compromise-based solutions are an effective strategy in dealing with parent protests. This is in accordance with research conducted by Hanushek and Woessmann (2020), which emphasizes that financial

flexibility in the private education system can increase the accessibility and sustainability of school programs.

In addition, increasing financial transparency through regular reporting to parents is a crucial step in building community trust and participation. According to a study conducted by Hoy and Miskel (2012), openness in the management of education funds can encourage parental involvement in decision making, which in the end will have a positive impact on the quality of education.

In the aspect of improving services, training efforts for teachers and staff to be more responsive to parent complaints is a strategic step. A study conducted by Fullan (2014) shows that training and increasing the capacity of teaching staff greatly influences the quality of educational services. With this training, it is hoped that teachers and staff at Tegalgede Muhammadiyah Elementary School can be more alert in handling student problems and increase parental satisfaction with school services.

## Conclusion

This research shows that the school committee at SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede has a strategic role in improving the quality of education, both as a consideration body, supporter, controller and mediator. However, various challenges are still faced, such as limited resources, low parental participation, and a lack of understanding of the role of the school committee. Therefore, further efforts are needed to increase the effectiveness of school committees, including through training for committee members, increasing parental involvement, and collaboration with external parties. It is hoped that the results of this research can be a reference for other schools in optimizing the role of school committees in improving the quality of education.

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