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# The Role of Qur'anic Studies Colleges in Preventing Demoralization of the Young Generation in Nagan Raya Regency

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## Abstract

*The demoralization of the younger generation is a social problem that remains a serious concern today. The influence of modernization and globalization has had both positive and negative effects on the mindset, behaviour, and values of the younger generation in Indonesia. On the other hand, Aceh has a strong Islamic tradition that should serve as a moral bulwark for society. Deviant behaviour often occurs among the younger generation, who are still searching for their identity. The purpose of this study is to determine the role of Al-Qur'an colleges in preventing the demoralization of the younger generation, examine the factors contributing to the demoralization of the younger generation in Nagan Raya Regency, and formulate the concept and urgency of establishing an Al-Qur'an college in Nagan Raya Regency. This study uses a qualitative approach. This approach suggests that investigating the moral phenomenon among the younger generation in Nagan Raya Regency is an empirical effort that explores the phenomenon in a real-life context and allows the use of various sources of evidence to support the analysis. The results of the study are: The contribution of Al-Qur'an colleges in preventing the demoralization of the younger generation is to shape the character and intellectual development of young Muslims, fostering noble morals and religious knowledge. The factors contributing to the demoralization of the young generation in Nagan Raya Regency include family factors, social environment, education, economy, culture and media, and public policy. It is important to establish a Qur'anic science college in Nagan Raya Regency.*

## A. Introduction

The decline in morals, moral decay, and behaviour, or what we know as demoralization among adolescents, is truly concerning to all parties in the archipelago. The decline in a person's moral values, evident in their daily behaviour and always in contradiction to societal norms and values, is called demoralization. Demoralization itself increases crime in society. Here are some examples of how a country is experiencing demoralization: Social crimes such as rape, theft, robbery, and murder are increasing. Both horizontal and vertical conflicts are increasing. The number of people using and selling drugs in society is increasing. Anarchic riots, such as burning houses, destroying public facilities, and looting, occur. Corruption is rampant. Drugs and promiscuity are becoming more common and are considered normal.

Moral decline is also unavoidable due to the rapid advancement of technology, which gives teenagers free access to information from around the world. The group most vulnerable to the negative impacts of this technological advancement is the younger generation. According to Angela Kearney, UNICEF Country Representative for Indonesia, today's youth are eager to learn new things but unaware of the potential dangers to their future.

In this highly dynamic era of globalization, technological and cultural changes have had a significant impact on the mindsets and lifestyles of young people worldwide. Particularly in the Indonesian context, these changes affect the moral and ethical values of the younger generation, who are increasingly influenced by global trends that tend to sideline spiritual values and local wisdom. Character education is crucial for shaping a generation that possesses not only intellectual abilities but also strong moral values.

The above factors have a significant negative impact on the character development of the younger generation, particularly in spiritual and moral aspects. The most obvious impact is the emergence of deviant behavior, such as a lack of respect for parents, increased cases of drug abuse among adolescents, and other antisocial behavior. This situation is exacerbated by the ease with which young people can access content inconsistent with religious values through social media.

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most vulnerable to the negative impacts of this technological advancement is the younger generation. (Tranggono, 2023)

The demoralization of young people is a persistent social problem, particularly in the West and South Coasts of Aceh. The influence of modernization and globalization has had both positive and negative effects on the mindsets, behaviours, and values of young people in Indonesia. On the other hand, Aceh has a strong Islamic tradition that should serve as a moral bulwark for society. In general, this must be prevented. Deviant behavior can happen to anyone, especially the younger generation, who are still in the process of discovering their identity (Kolip, Pengantar Soisologi, 2013).

According to Mardiani, this behavior also occurs among migrant students around the city of Meulaboh, West Aceh. (Mardiani, 2021). Child rape is also a problem in the West Coast of Aceh. The case of 14-year-old Mawar, who was kidnapped by 14 people in 2021, has become a frightening issue for the people of Nagan Raya. According to Reva Alen, this is because the Nagan Raya area still has many oil palm plantations, making it vulnerable to sexual harassment due to the difficulty of oversight by the Nagan Raya Social Service (Alena, 2022). Therefore, the Aceh government, in general, and specifically, must pay attention to the development of adolescents in the Southwest coast of Aceh. Religious education facilities can be an option for addressing deviant behavior in the community in this Southwest Aceh region.

Geographically, Nagan Raya Regency, as one of the strategic areas in the West and South Coast of Aceh, has great potential and is well positioned to develop educational institutions focused on strengthening the values of the Qur'an. However, until now, there has been no higher education institution that specifically studies the science of the Qur'an in depth, integrated with modern needs. The establishment of a higher education institution for the science of the Qur'an in Nagan Raya Regency is expected to strengthen the morality of the younger generation and help prevent the increasingly widespread demoralization. Therefore, this study will examine the urgency of establishing such an institution as a strategic effort to address the moral issues of the younger generation in the region.

UIN Ar-Raniry, through its collaboration with PT. Bara Energi Lestari (BEL), PT. MIFA and STAIN Meulaboh have at least begun assisting communities in coal-mining areas, which are known to have experienced a decline in religious practices due to the busyness of the mining areas. This is a brief note on the community's social

development, in particular. The low interest in education for mining residents is a worrying matter for the government. This is because all working-age residents are focused solely on mining work. Beyond that, the pattern of socialization within the community continues to erode, of course. The X-factor and negative rumors about mining and factory workers are certainly common knowledge in the community.

Far from that, religious education for the younger generation is considered crucial. Initial observations by researchers revealed that in Nagan Raya, there are generally no higher education institutions for Qur'anic studies that could act as a filter against the demoralization of the younger generation on the southern West Coast of Aceh.

Based on the above background, the researcher will conduct research in West Aceh and Nagan Raya Regencies to determine the level of need for the establishment of a College of Qur'anic Sciences in the future, and also in North Sumatra to observe, study, and compare. The focus of this research is the community on the South West coast of Aceh, to determine their interest and desire for an Islamic Religious College focused on the development of Qur'anic Sciences (Tahfidz and Tahsin Al-Qur'an).

## B. Method

This research uses a qualitative approach as its primary method. This approach focuses on collecting descriptive data, both written and oral, derived from the experiences and behavior of observed individuals. (Sugiyono, Metode Penelitian Kualitatif dan Kombinasi, 2013). This research design aims to gather in-depth information through interviews with key informants in their natural context (Bangin, 2015). The selection of this case study method is considered effective for revealing and analyzing phenomena that are sustainable, which grow and develop in a particular region throughout its history from the past to the present and the future (Sugiyono, Metode Penelitian kuantitatif dan R&D, 2017). This approach suggests that investigating the moral phenomena of the young generation in Nagan Raya Regency is an empirical effort that explores the phenomenon in a real-life context and allows the use of various sources of evidence to support the analysis (Mackiewicz, 2018). In its implementation, researchers are directly involved in the environment, a mining area,through participatory observation (Knopp). This involvement allows researchers to interact with the community. In this way, researchers can gather detailed, empirical information about events occurring within the community without being distracted by other activities. Furthermore, direct observation greatly assists

researchers in understanding and interpreting hidden meanings that might not be revealed through other methods.

## C. Results and Discussion

### 1. Results

Youth demoralization is a condition in which young people's moral values, ethics, and positive spirit decline. This can manifest itself in various forms of negative behavior and a loss of direction in life. To analyze this, we can look at several indicators of demoralization:

a. Juvenile Delinquency and Crime:
   1) Number of crime cases (theft, assault, sexual violence, etc.) involving perpetrators under the age of 30.
   2) The level of fighting between students or youth groups.
   3) Vandalism case.

b. Abuse of Drugs and Addictive Substances:
   1) Number of drug-related arrests involving young people.
   2) Statistics of drug addicts undergoing rehabilitation.
   3) Prevalence of smoking or alcohol consumption among adolescents

c. Education problems:
   1) School dropout rates at various levels of education.
   2) Attendance level and learning motivation.
   3) Functional illiteracy rate among youth.

d. Social Problems and Other Negative Behaviors:
   1) Rate of early marriage or premarital pregnancy.
   2) Cases of suicide or attempted suicide among young people.
   3) Free sexual behavior (if data is available from the health sector).
   4) Participation in motorcycle gangs or radical groups.

e. Mental health:
   1) Prevalence of depression, anxiety, or stress among youth (difficult to measure without a dedicated survey).
   2) Access to counselling or mental health services.

f. Social and Economic Participation:
   1) Unemployment rate among youth.

2) Interest in positive activities (youth organizations, religious activities, sports, arts).
3) Level of youth political participation.

Various demoralizing conditions mentioned above have occurred in the environment closest to where we currently live and have reached a worrying stage if educational institutions are not present to provide solutions and protect the lives of future generations (MPD, 2025).

Islamic educational institutions have made significant contributions in providing early religious education, encompassing the study of the Quran, hadith, jurisprudence, faith, and Islamic history. This curriculum aims to instil fundamental Islamic values in students and shape their character from an early age. At higher levels, madrasas teach general subjects such as mathematics and science, while maintaining a substantial portion of religious education (Rangkuti, 2025).

The contribution of Quran-based educational institutions in preventing the demoralization of the younger generation is to shape the character and intellectualism of a young generation of Muslims with noble morals and broad knowledge, producing a generation capable of facing life's challenges without losing the direction of Islam based on the values contained in the Quran as a guide for life. The programs and curricula implemented in these institutions are designed to integrate general and religious education, aiming to develop individuals who are morally and spiritually resilient. Islamic education emphasizes not only cognitive aspects but also the cultivation of high moral and ethical values. Islamic educational institutions help students understand Islamic values and how to apply them in their daily lives, enabling them to become independent, noble, and useful members of society.

In general, people in Nagan Raya state say the younger generation's demoralization is due to a lack of attention from parents and to the environment's lack of support for adolescent social interactions. Many of them are busy with online games, addicted to social media, ignore moral values, do not respect older people in daily interactions, and are easily provoked by hoax news. The role of families and communities is very important in providing good examples to teenagers, helping them find the right direction in life. The Keuchik of Alue Buloh village also mentioned the same thing. A fragile family system is also a factor influencing changes in adolescent behavior in Nagan Raya (Buloh, 2025).

Public Information Regarding the Challenges of the Young Generation in Aceh, especially on the South West Coast in 2024: Several challenges will be faced seriously. (Darkasih, 2025):

a. Drug Abuse: This is a serious problem that continues to be a major concern in Aceh. Numerous reports from the police and the provincial/district BNN indicate high arrest rates, particularly involving young people as both users and dealers. Coastal areas are often vulnerable to drug entry and distribution routes.
b. Youth Unemployment: Despite Aceh's rich natural resources, unemployment, particularly among young graduates, remains a persistent issue. Limited formal employment opportunities and a lack of skills relevant to the job market are contributing factors.
c. Juvenile Delinquency: Includes fighting, illegal racing, and acts violating social norms. Despite Aceh's implementation of Islamic law, cases of juvenile delinquency persist and have drawn the attention of local governments and religious leaders.
d. Early Marriage: In some areas, early marriage remains common, hindering the education and personal development of young people.
e. The Influence of Social Media and External Culture: Young people are highly exposed to external information and lifestyles through the internet and social media. This brings positive impacts, such as access to information, but also the risk of demoralization if not properly filtered, including consumerist tendencies, negative content, and shifts in local values.
f. Adolescent Reproductive Health Issues: Lack of education or access to accurate reproductive health information can lead to unhealthy behavior.
g. Youth Participation: Although there are many youth organizations, the challenge lies in attracting more youth to actively participate in positive activities and regional development while avoiding groups that could lead them astray.

## 2. Discussion

Factors causing demoralization of the younger generation in Nagan Raya Regency include family factors, with the prevalence of disintegration or divorce (broken homes), lack of parental attention and supervision, poor parenting (too permissive/authoritarian), domestic violence, and family poverty. Social environmental factors include negative peer pressure, a permissive or indifferent

community environment, the absence of positive public spaces for youth, and a lack of role models. Educational factors include irrelevant or boring curricula, uneven teacher quality, an unconducive school environment (bullying), and high education costs. Economic factors include high youth unemployment, difficulty accessing employment, and economic disparity. Cultural and Media factors include unfiltered foreign cultural influences, the spread of negative information through social media, easy access to pornographic or violent content, and the erosion of local wisdom or religious values. Public Policy factors include the lack of effective youth development and empowerment programs, weak law enforcement, and limited recreational and educational facilities.

In the Focus Group Discussion held in mid-September 2025, which was attended by elements of the pentahelix (Academics from UIN Ar Raniry Banda Aceh and STAIN Teungku Dirundeng Meulaboh, Energi Lestari Coal Mining Company, Nagan Raya Government, the Community, in this case attended by Geuchik Alue Buloh and Geuchik Latong, as well as several Communities within the scope of Nagan Raya Regency), fully supported the sustainability of the program in Nagan Raya Regency, especially around the coal mining area. Several important points in the FGD results were the desire to delve more deeply into socio-religious programs, including training programs for prospective imams and teenagers for muezzin roles, and to increase children's literacy in Nagan Raya.

Activities to improve education in the Nagan Raya area have actually been underway for three years. Therefore, it's crucial to assess the community's response to the efforts undertaken by relevant parties, including higher education institutions and stakeholders in Nagan Raya. Empowering the community to stay on track is the responsibility of universities. Furthermore, once the university team returns, how will the community's education efforts continue?

The stakeholders, particularly the mining company, expressed their desire to be fully visible in the company's area. However, the question remains, what needs to be done in the Nagan Raya area to improve the standard of living and knowledge of the community around Nagan Raya and the surrounding mining area. The Geuchik (the village head) of Alue Buloh and Latong expressed their strong support for all programs to improve the quality of life for people living in the mining area in Nagan Raya, including the establishment of a Dayan Yatim Entrepreneur or a higher education institution for Quranic studies in Nagan Raya.

A higher education institution for the study of the Qur'an needs to be established in Nagan Raya Regency, in addition to the mandate of the 1945 Constitution to educate the nation's life and the government to strive for and organize a national education system regulated by the National Education System Law which states that the goal of higher education is to prepare students to (a) become members of society who have academic and/or professional abilities who can apply, develop and/or enrich the treasury of science and/or art, (b) can develop and disseminate science, technology and/or art and strive to use it to improve the standard of living of the community and enrich the national culture. The Government and Society of Nagan Raya and also Tambang Bara Energi Lestari (PT. BEL) Companies, through various forums, strongly support the establishment of higher education institutions for the study of the Qur'an in their area, so that they can produce young people who have character and personality based on Islamic values and become Agents of Change in Nagan Raya Regency.

## D. Conclusion

Based on the results of the research and discussion, several important points can be concluded regarding the role of Qur'anic science colleges as an effort to prevent demoralization in Nagan Raya, including:

1. The contribution of Quran-based educational institutions in preventing the demoralization of the younger generation is to shape the character and intellectualism of a young generation of Muslims with noble morals and broad knowledge, producing a generation capable of facing life's challenges without losing the direction of Islam based on the values contained in the Quran as a guide for life. The programs and curricula implemented in these institutions are designed to integrate general and religious education, aiming to develop individuals who are morally and spiritually resilient. Islamic education emphasizes not only cognitive aspects but also the cultivation of high moral and ethical values. Islamic educational institutions help students understand Islamic values and how to apply them in their daily lives, enabling them to become independent, noble, and useful members of society.
2. Factors causing demoralization of the younger generation in Nagan Raya Regency include family factors, with the prevalence of disintegration or divorce (broken homes), lack of parental attention and supervision, poor parenting (too permissive/authoritarian), domestic violence, and family poverty. Social

environmental factors include negative peer pressure, a permissive or indifferent community environment, the absence of positive public spaces for youth, and a lack of role models. Educational factors include irrelevant or boring curricula, uneven teacher quality, an unconducive school environment (bullying), and high education costs. Economic factors include high youth unemployment, difficulty accessing employment, and economic disparity. Cultural and Media factors include unfiltered foreign cultural influences, the spread of negative information through social media, easy access to pornographic or violent content, and the erosion of local wisdom or religious values. Public Policy factors include the lack of effective youth development and empowerment programs, weak law enforcement, and limited recreational and educational facilities.

3. It is important to establish a Higher Education Institution for the Study of the Qur'an in Nagan Raya Regency, in addition to the mandate of the 1945 Constitution to educate the nation's life and the government to strive and organize a national education system regulated by the National Education System Law which states that the purpose of higher education is to prepare students to (a) become members of society who have academic and/or professional abilities who can apply, develop and/or enrich the treasury of science and/or art, (b) can develop and disseminate science, technology and/or art and strive to use it to improve the standard of living of the community and enrich the national culture. The Government and Community of Nagan Raya, and also the Coal Mining Company Energi Lestari (PT. BEL), through various forums, strongly support the establishment of a higher education institution for the study of the Qur'an in their area, so that it can produce young people who have character and personality based on Islamic values and become Agents of Change in Nagan Raya Regency.

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