

**Eko Nursalim\*<sup>1</sup>**  
**Hasan Hasan<sup>2</sup>**  
**Felina<sup>3</sup>**

## **The Role Of Majelis Ta'lim Berkah Sidin In Improving Religious Knowledge And Social Life**

### **Abstract**

This research examines the role of Majelis Ta'lim Berkah Sidin in Sangatta Utara as a non-formal educational institution in improving religious understanding and social life of the community. Using a descriptive qualitative approach, data were collected through observation, interviews, and documentation. The results showed that Majelis Ta'lim Berkah Sidin succeeded in deepening the religious insight of the congregation through regular recitations that discussed aqidah, sharia and morals. Interactive learning methods, such as discussion and question and answer, increase participants' understanding of Islamic teachings. In addition, the assembly contributes to social solidarity through community activities such as fundraising and social services. However, there are challenges in developing facilities and improving the competence of teachers. This study confirms the importance of Majelis Ta'lim as agents of social and spiritual change in building harmonious communities based on Islamic values.

**Keywords:** Majelis Ta'lim, Non-Formal Education, Religious Understanding, Social Solidarity

### **1. Introduction**

Lack of religious understanding can affect people's awareness of worship and religion. As a result, established norms and rules are difficult to apply as a form of self-discipline. This can occur due to the lack of early cultivation of religious values or the influence of the surrounding environment that is far from religious principles. As a result, a person's behaviour and attitudes are often not in line with religious teachings based on the Quran and Sunnah. (Daradjat, 1975)

Seeing this condition, steps are needed to reinforce Islamic values in life. Islamic teachings and values must not only be known and understood, but also need to be institutionalised and familiarised so that they can be applied in everyday life. This is important because Islamic values can be a guide and controller in human life. In Indonesia, one of the forms of education regulated by law is non-formal education. This education is an education path outside the formal system that can be done in a structured manner. In this context, Majelis Taklim is one form of non-formal education service that plays an important role. (Gazalba, 1983)

Majelis Ta'lim is one of the religious institutions that functions as a non-formal education forum for the community, especially in improving religious understanding and social life. In North Sangatta, Majelis Ta'lim has developed and become one of the most popular Islamic

<sup>1</sup> Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Sangatta Kabupaten Kutai Timur, Indonesia, Email : ekonursalim99@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup> Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Qur'an Amuntai, Indonesia, Email : hasanbanjary@gmail.com

<sup>3</sup> Women's University Philippines, Philippines, Email : Email: feline.wup@gmail.com



learning facilities, especially for housewives and community groups not covered by formal education. However, although the role of majelis ta'lim is very important, there are still some problems faced in an effort to optimise its function.

Majelis Taklim is an Islamic non-formal educational institution that has a special curriculum, organised regularly and structured, and followed by a large number of worshipers. This institution aims to foster and strengthen the harmonious relationship between humans and Allah SWT, between fellow humans, and between humans and their environment, in order to create a society that is devoted to Allah SWT. (Dahlan, 2019) . As an educational institution, Majelis Taklim is expected to act as a means of community empowerment to instil and improve religious understanding, so as to form religious attitudes in individuals. Therefore, to further understand the role of Majelis Taklim as an educational institution, this discussion will highlight the development of Majelis Taklim as a religious education institution, including its main teaching contents and methods, as well as its social role

*First*, Siti Humairoh's research in a journal entitled *The Role of Majelis Taklim in Improving Community Religiousness through Routine Book Studies in the Holy Village, Panti District, Jember Regency* "focuses on several main aspects, namely: the role of majelis ta'lim in improving community religiosity, strategies and methods of da'wah, routine book studies, and community enthusiasm, so Overall, the main focus of this study is how majelis taklim functions as an important means of improving the quality of community religiosity, with a da'wah approach sourced from the methods of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, as well as the role of books in strengthening religious understanding. The purpose of this research is to Analyse the Role of Taklim Assembly in Improving Community Religiosity, Identify the Books Used in Routine Studies, and Explore the Enthusiasm of the Community towards Taklim Assembly. The method used in this research is type of descriptive-qualitative research method. This type is used to describe all materials contained in the research process both from observation, interviews, documentation. The results of this study show that Majelis Taklim in Suci Village, Jember, is very instrumental in improving community religiosity through routine book studies. The community enthusiastically participates in the study every Monday night, which involves discussions about aqidah, sharia, and morals. The books studied include Aqidatul Awam, Mabadi'ul Fiqhiyah, and Lubabul Hadith. As a result, the community has a better understanding and practice of Islamic teachings in their daily lives. (Humairoh, 2021)

*The second* research conducted by Ahmad Marzuki, M.PdI in his article entitled "*The Dynamics and Role of Majelis Ta'lim in Improving Religious Knowledge in the Tengger Tribal Area*" the focus of this research is on the role of majelis ta'lim in the tegger tribal area, and also the existence of majelis ta'lim. The purpose of this research is to analyse the role of majelis ta'lim in the tegger region, understand the dynamics of majelis ta'lim, and explore the contribution of majelis ta'lim. The method used in this research is a qualitative approach method by means of direct observation of the activities of majelis ta'lim, interviews, documentation. The results of this study generally show that majelis ta'lim plays a significant role in increasing the religious knowledge of Muslim communities, especially in the Tengger tribe area, through three main aspects, namely aqidah knowledge, fiqh knowledge, and Islamic akhlaq. (Marzuki, 2016)

*Third* Research conducted by Oyoh Bariah, Iwan Hermawan, and H. Tajuddin Nur entitled *The Role of Majelis Taklim in Improving Worship for the Community in Telukjambe Village, Karawang* The focus of this research is on the importance of internalising religious values in modern society, as well as how non-formal educational institutions such as majelis taklim play a role in increasing faith, piety, and noble morals amid the challenges of globalisation and advances in science and technology. The purpose of this research is to reveal data about the role of Majelis Taklim in improving community worship in Telukjambe village. The inhibiting and supporting factors of the role of Majelis Taklim in improving the practice

of community worship. The method used by researchers is analytical descriptive method. The research approach uses a Quantitative approach. The model formed is then tested to determine the ability to explain real events. And the results of this study The results showed that the role of Majelis Taklim in Telukjambe Village was quite good in improving the worship and morals of the congregation, although there were several aspects that needed to be improved:

- Reading the Qur'an is done regularly, but understanding of the meaning is still low. Prayer performance is good, especially sunnah prayers, although the majority are performed at home. Zakat and infaq are well implemented, with high social awareness. Sunnah fasting is performed by the majority of the congregation, especially Monday-Thursday fasting.

- Implementation of good jama'ah morals, especially in educating the family and setting an example.

- Distance and facilities are not a problem, motivation is high, teaching materials are appropriate, and teacher competence is excellent.

Based on several studies by the researchers above, the researchers found several similarities and differences related to the challenges, obstacles and solutions to the challenges of the independent curriculum in evaluating Islamic Religious Education learning, some of the differences and similarities include, among others, the similarity is that there is still a lack of training for teachers regarding the application of the independent curriculum, and there is still a need for a deeper understanding of the application of the independent curriculum, the difference is the difficulty in implementing the learning evaluation function as an integral part of learning. Learning assessment is an important component that is often overlooked by schools in achieving goals, and the lack of teacher ability to support technology-based facilities. (Bariah & Nur, 2011)

The purpose of this research is to find out how the **role of Majelis Ta'lim Berkat Sidin** in improving the religious insight and understanding of the community in North Sangatta. This research can provide a scientific contribution to the study of the role of Islamic educational institutions in community empowerment, especially in spiritual and social aspects, which so far has not been widely discussed in depth in areas such as North Sangatta, so this is very interesting to study and learn more deeply. Here are some theories that can support research on the Role of the Ta'lim Assembly in Improving Religious Knowledge and Social Life of the community:

This theory explains how innovations or changes, including religious values delivered through Majelis Ta'lim, can spread and be adopted by the community to create positive social change. (Afni, 2013) The activities of Majelis Ta'lim can be seen as a form of innovation in delivering religious education and building a better social life. The theory of social change explains how an innovation or change, including religious values taught in Majelis Ta'lim, can be accepted and applied by the community. This can encourage social change for the better. The activities of Majelis Ta'lim itself can be considered as a new way to deliver religious education while helping to improve the quality of people's social lives.

Non-formal Education Theory, Majelis Ta'lim as a non-formal education institution provides broad access to the community to acquire religious knowledge. According to Helmawati, the assembly serves as a flexible learning forum, where participants of different ages can join recitations and discussions on Islamic teachings. (Adolph, 2016) This is in line with the concept of lifelong education which emphasises the importance of continuous learning outside the formal education system

According to Religious Socialisation Theory, Majelis Ta'lim also plays a role in the socialisation of religious values in society. As explained by Syamsuddin Abbas, these assemblies form communities that support each other in understanding and practising the teachings of Islam. (Adolph, 2016) With social interaction in the assemblies, individuals can

learn from each other's experiences, thus strengthening social ties and solidarity between members

Active Learning Theory, Activities at Majelis Ta'lim often involve active learning methods such as discussion and question and answer. Amatul Jadidah and Mufarrohah state that majelis taklim does not only function as a place to impart knowledge, but also as a space to exchange ideas and experiences. (JASMINE, 2014) This method encourages the active involvement of participants, which in turn increases their understanding of religious teachings.

Theories of Da'wah and Community Development, Majelis Ta'lim serves as an effective means of da'wah to spread the teachings of Islam. According to Anas Rudi, the main purpose of this assembly is to spread Islamic da'wah and foster the community to better understand religious values. (Beno et al., 2022) Thus, the assembly not only focuses on the spiritual aspect but also on the social development of the community through useful activities.

## 2. Research methods

This research adopts a qualitative method with a type of description as a scientific approach to explore natural phenomena. The qualitative approach emphasises an in-depth understanding between the researcher and the phenomenon that is the focus of the research, enabling the extraction of richer and more contextual information. In this context, the data collection techniques applied involved interviews, observation and documentation. The interview was conducted with the deputy curriculum teacher, Mrs Serly Wahyuni S.Pd.I, who acted as the main source of information for the researcher. This enabled the researcher to gain an in-depth insight into educational practices at the school. The qualitative approach and data collection techniques used provided a comprehensive and holistic framework in analysing the educational phenomenon that was the focus of the research. There are four stages of literature study in research, namely preparing the necessary equipment, preparing some necessary questions about the subject matter we raise, organising time and reading or recording research materials (Adlini et al., 2022).

By using a qualitative approach, researchers can focus on attention and also natural events that occur, data collection techniques through direct observation so that the data obtained is factual and reliable. Then interviews, namely question and answer activities carried out by researchers to objects that support research data. Then documentation in the form of taking pictures or video recordings, this is done so that the data that has been obtained is not lost so that it changes the interpretation that has been determined, and finally is literacy by sourcing journal articles from the latest research results that are relevant to this research, namely about (Nurgiansah, 2021).

In addition, researchers also use the triangulation method as a data collection technique, which involves collecting data from various sources or methods to ensure the accuracy and truth of research findings. By using this method, researchers can ensure and validate findings by comparing data from different sources such as observations, interviews and previous journal analyses. This technique aims to overcome if there are weaknesses and tendencies from the use of a method or data source that has been researched. Thus the use of the triangulation method can help researchers to improve the quality of research and the trust and accuracy of the results obtained.

## 3. Results and Discussion

Majelis Ta'lim Berkat Sidin has an important role as a non-formal educational institution that has a major impact on the community of Sangatta Utara, especially in improving religious knowledge and social life. With a structured recitation routine, this institution has become one

of the effective means to spread Islamic values while building social solidarity within the community.

The improvement of people's religious understanding is one of the main positive impacts of activities at the Majelis Ta'lim. The congregation gets the opportunity to study various aspects of Islamic teachings, such as *aqidah*, *sharia*, and morals. These studies not only deepen their religious knowledge, but also help them practise Islamic values in their daily lives. In addition, the learning methods used, such as discussions and questions and answers, make the learning process more interesting and interactive. Participants are actively involved in the activities so that they are able to understand the material more deeply.

Apart from the religious aspect, Majelis Ta'lim also contributes greatly to the social life of the community. Joint activities, such as group recitation, become an effective means of strengthening social relations between community members. This interaction creates a sense of solidarity and mutual support among the congregation. In fact, Majelis Ta'lim is often the driving force behind social activities, such as fundraising to help the underprivileged or the implementation of social service programmes.

The activities carried out by Majelis Ta'lim can be considered a form of social innovation. By conveying religious values through a relevant and contextual approach, this institution is able to encourage positive social change. This transformation can be seen from the increasing public awareness of the importance of religious values as a guide to life. For example, the congregation shows more caring behaviour towards others and is more active in social activities that benefit the community.

However, there are some challenges that need to be overcome to further optimise the role of Majelis Ta'lim. One obstacle that is often faced is the limited educational facilities. In addition, some participants still need a deepening of religious teachings, especially in understanding the meaning contained in the Quran and hadith. The quality of the teaching staff also needs to be improved so that the material presented is easier to understand and relevant to everyday life.

To address these challenges, several steps can be taken. Improving the competence of teachers is a top priority, such as through periodic training that focuses on mastering teaching materials and methods. In addition, the development of facilities and infrastructure will be very helpful in supporting the smooth running of recitation activities. More varied social activities can also be designed to expand the positive impact of the Majelis Ta'lim in the community.

Overall, Majelis Ta'lim Berkat Sidin has proven its role as an institution that not only conveys religious teachings, but also contributes to building a better social life. With more optimal management, this institution has great potential to continue empowering the community, both in the spiritual and social aspects, so as to create a harmonious community based on Islamic values. Some previous research that has been carried out in Indonesia, for example in Siti Humairoh's research published in a journal entitled *The Role of Majelis Taklim in Improving Community Religiousness through Routine Book Studies in the Holy Village, Panti District, Jember Regency*, examines several main aspects. Among these are the contribution of the taklim assembly in improving community religiosity, the strategies and methods used in preaching, the implementation of routine book studies, and community enthusiasm. In essence, this study highlights how majelis ta'lim serves as an important platform to foster religiosity in the community. The study emphasises the use of a *da'wah* approach inspired by the Prophet Muhammad's methods and underlines the importance of religious texts in deepening the understanding of Islamic teachings. This research aims to look at the role of Majelis Taklim in improving community religiosity, identify the books used in routine studies, and explore the enthusiasm of the community in attending Majelis Taklim. The research used a descriptive-qualitative method to describe all aspects of the research process, including observations, interviews, and documentation. The findings show that Majelis Taklim in Suci

Village, Jember, plays an important role in fostering religiosity in the community through regular book study sessions. These sessions, which are held every Monday evening, focus on discussions on aqidah, sharia and ethics. The books studied include Aqidatul Awam, Mabadi'ul Fiqhiyah, and Lubabul Hadith. As a result, community members gain a deeper understanding of Islamic teachings and integrate these principles into their daily lives. (Humairoh, 2021)

According to Ahmad Marzuki (2016), majelis ta'lim has an important role in improving religious knowledge among the community, especially in areas with strong religious traditions. In his research, Marzuki stated that majelis ta'lim is a strategic place for continuous learning and is able to touch various levels of society, from children to adults.

Research by Muslih TB et al. (2008) highlighted the important role of religious education in shaping adolescent character and behaviour. One of the main points of the study was that religious education can serve as a deterrent to deviant behaviour among adolescents. Majelis ta'lim, which is a forum for religious discussion and learning, is often a more accessible alternative for people who may not receive adequate formal education. In this context, they provide an opportunity for adolescents to learn about moral values, ethics and social norms set out in religion. Coaching conducted in majelis ta'lim usually covers various aspects, such as:

- Teaching Religious Values: The material taught at majelis ta'lim is often related to religious teachings that emphasise the importance of good behaviour, responsibility and caring for others.
- Character Building: Through discussions and lectures, teenagers are taught to internalise positive values that can help them overcome social pressures and negative influences from the environment.
- Social Support: Majelis ta'lim also serves as a community where teenagers can support each other, share experiences, and seek advice from more mature people.
- Alternatives to Formal Education: In many cases, formal education may not always be available or appropriate for everyone. Majelis ta'lim provides adolescents with greater access to religious education and guidance. With this approach, it is hoped that adolescents can be more aware of their behaviour and better able to resist negative influences that may lead to deviant behaviour. This research underscores that investment in religious education can have a significant positive impact on society, especially in reducing social problems faced by the younger generation

Overall, these studies emphasise that majelis taklim serves as a powerful non-formal educational institution for community empowerment. Beyond its function in reinforcing religious values, majelis taklim also plays an important role in shaping character, preserving religious traditions, and fostering social solidarity, all of which contribute to building a more harmonious society rooted in Islamic principles.

From the analysis above, researchers took several theories from various previous journals that might be able to answer how the role of majelis taklim berkat sidin in improving knowledge and social life in the North Sangatta community, including:

Social change theory explains how innovations or changes, including religious values delivered through Majelis Ta'lim, can spread and be adopted by the community, thus encouraging positive social transformation. (Afni, 2013) Majelis Ta'lim activities are a form of innovation in delivering religious education and improving social life. The theory of social change describes how these innovations, especially the religious values taught in Majelis Ta'lim, can be adopted and implemented by the community, resulting in positive social change. Thus, Majelis Ta'lim can be seen as a new approach to religious education while contributing to improving the social welfare of the community.

In the context of Non-formal Education Theory, Majelis Ta'lim functions as a non-formal education institution that offers extensive opportunities to the community to gain religious knowledge. According to Helmawati, these assemblies act as flexible learning platforms, where people of different ages can participate in recitations and discussions on Islamic teachings. (Adolph, 2016) This is in line with the concept of lifelong education, which underlines the importance of continuous learning outside the formal education system.

According to Religious Socialisation Theory, Majelis Ta'lim plays an important role in transmitting religious values within the community. As explained by Syamsuddin Abbas, these assemblies create a supportive environment where members help each other understand and practice the teachings of Islam. (Adolph, 2016) Through social interaction within the assemblies, individuals can share experiences, strengthening social bonds and solidarity among participants. In line with Active Learning Theory, activities at Majelis Ta'lim often utilise active learning techniques such as discussions and question and answer sessions. Amatul Jadidah and Mufarrohah highlight that Majelis Ta'lim does not only serve as a place for the delivery of knowledge, but also serves as a space for the exchange of ideas and experiences. (JASMINE, 2014) These interactive methods encourage active participation and increase participants' understanding of religious teachings. From the perspective of Da'wah Theory and Community Development, Majelis Ta'lim serves as a powerful tool to spread the teachings of Islam. As noted by Anas Rudi, the main purpose of these assemblies is to promote Islamic da'wah and help the community gain a deeper understanding of religious values. (Beno et al., 2022) Therefore, Majelis Ta'lim not only focuses on spiritual growth, but also on the social development of the community through useful activities.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Majelis Ta'lim Berkat Sidin has shown its role as an important non-formal education institution in increasing religious knowledge and improving the social life of the people of Sangatta Utara. As a forum for religious education, Majelis Ta'lim provides a significant positive impact, not only in the spiritual aspect but also in the social aspect of the community. The increase in the religious understanding of the community is one of the main results of Majelis Ta'lim activities. With interactive learning methods such as discussion and question and answer, the congregation gains a deeper understanding of Islamic teachings, including aqidah, sharia, and morals. In addition to deepening religious knowledge, this activity also encourages them to practice Islamic teachings in their daily lives.

More than that, Majelis Ta'lim Berkat Sidin plays a role in building social solidarity among the community. Regular recitations create strong social ties, develop a sense of solidarity, and support social activities that benefit the community. Activities such as fundraising and the implementation of social service programmes are clear examples of how Majelis Ta'lim contributes to the social welfare of the community.

As a social innovation, Majelis Ta'lim not only functions as a means of religious education, but also as an agent of social change that brings positive impacts in society. By conveying religious values through a contextualised and relevant approach, Majelis Ta'lim is able to encourage better social change. The community is increasingly aware of the importance of religious values as a guide to life, which is reflected in increased concern for others and involvement in social activities.

However, challenges remain in optimising the role of Majelis Ta'lim. Limited educational facilities and the need to improve the quality of teaching are some of the obstacles that need to be overcome. For this reason, improving the competence of teachers and developing infrastructure are important steps that can strengthen the role of Majelis Ta'lim in community empowerment.

Based on the analysis of various theories, such as social change theory, non-formal education theory, religious socialisation theory, and da'wah theory, Majelis Ta'lim Berkat Sidin can be seen as an institution that not only spreads religious teachings, but also contributes to character building and strengthens social solidarity. With better management, Majelis Ta'lim has great potential to continue empowering the community in spiritual and social aspects, thus creating a harmonious community based on Islamic values.

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