Strengthening Christian Values In The Formation Of Adolescent Identity At Gloria Sentani High School

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Abstract
Youth are the hope for the future, but behind this hope lie challenges that may alter the course of today's youth. The students of SMTK Gloria Sentani face challenges that are feared to shake their faith, leading to a degradation of their beliefs. The purpose of this Community Service (PkM) is to strengthen the Christian values of the youth, particularly the students of SMTK Gloria Sentani, in defining their identity to carve out a brighter future. The methods used in this PkM include observation-interviews, lectures-discussions, and the preparation of accountability reports packaged in the form of scientific articles such as national journals. The results achieved include an understanding and cognitive maturity regarding the concept of the "youth planet" and the outlined destinations for youth in general. Through this activity, it is hoped that the students of SMTK Gloria Sentani will develop an optimistic attitude towards the global challenges they are currently facing.

Keywords: Strengthening, Identity, Christian Values, and SMTK Gloria Sentani

BACKGROUND

Adolescence is a time filled with passionate enthusiasm with memories that are very meaningful to remember. The lyrics of the song popularized by Mulyadi (2020)) about youth contain the message that the youth is the time when God calls us and leaves sin. The message implicitly means that the youth is a very important and meaningful period. therefore, the youth should be filled with all the colorful and meaningful activities.

Filling youth with vibrant experiences is one of the essences of finding one's identity. Rahmat (2021) revealed that forming a positive identity involves engaging in constructive activities through self-development. Christian faith emphasizes that shaping the identity of young people should align with or follow the example of Jesus, maintaining good relationships, developing talents, doing good deeds, and being witnesses of Christ. According Gainau et al. (2023) church teenagers face challenges due to the progress of the times. The advancement of the times demands that young people continually adapt to technology. However, in its implementation, young people not only need to master technology but also are required to

multitask. A similar view is expressed by Noyita et al. (2023) who describe Generation "Z" as teenagers born in the digital era and confronted with diverse complexities. Therefore, the step that must be taken is to strengthen the faith and character of teenagers. This underscores the importance of providing spiritual and moral support to teenagers in facing the complex challenges of the times.

Strengthening adolescents is an essential need to support their ability to adapt to changes, whether in terms of technology or regulations that are part of the norms they face. However, more fundamentally, it is about forming a character in accordance with Christian teachings. Gloria Sentani Christian Theological High School (SMTK) is one of the targets that require strengthening, both in terms of character, regulations, and technological adaptation. This is because SMTK Gloria Sentani is in an environment that requires technological acceleration while also being in an environment where the norms must follow the example of Christ. The urgency lies in creating a balance between a character that reflects Christian values and a character that can adapt to regulatory and technological changes. Therefore, relevant guidance is

needed to accelerate and instill Christian values.

Students at Gloria Sentani SMTK need assistance in Adolescent Christian Religious Education (ADE). They need to understand the concept of the "adolescent planet," which is divided into the spaces of identity, sin, failure, and success. This concept is important because their future success depends on the process of identity formation through various spaces, including the space of failure, success, and the space of repentance. Adolescents' planets reflect the picture in their minds of where they are at the moment, as well as the consequences of the decisions and steps they take in their lives. Therefore, mentoring in adolescent PAK needs to emphasize a deep understanding of this concept so that students can recognize and manage the role and consequences of their choices in building their identity.

As similar cases, either conducted in the form of research or community service to address global challenges, was *firstly* carried out by Zega (2021) who identified the issue that many Christian children, especially teenagers, were beginning to lose their identity as God's people. This occurred due to the influence of changing times and a lack of parental understanding of how to build their children's spirituality according to current needs. As a result, these teenagers lost confidence in their own religious beliefs. Therefore, in his article, the author used a literature review method to provide solutions to this problem. The aim was to offer parents insights and concepts about the importance of providing Christian religious education within the family to build the spirituality of Generation Z teenagers. The results achieved included recommendations for parents' roles in educating their children, such as conducting spiritual guidance within the family, monitoring children's development according to their age level, setting a good example, giving attention and affection, involving children in service activities, and addressing issues related to Generation Z.

Secondly, Suhartono (2022) also described the role of Christian Religious Education (PAK) in building the faith of teenagers at GBI Batu Aji. This research was based on the substantial issue that teenagers were experiencing a degradation of faith due to the rapid advancement of technology. Therefore, the role of the church and parents is crucial. The research results showed that the church's role as a place of worship, a venue for sharing teenage problems, and providing counseling has been well implemented. Likewise, the role of parents in conducting joint prayers, being disciplined in PAK learning, and setting a good example greatly influences the attitudes and faith of teenagers. As a result, the faith of teenagers at GBI Batu Aji has improved despite the rapid onslaught of technology. This is evidenced by their participation and resilience in following the guidance of the church and parents.

Thirdly, the team of Theology Magister of STT Real Batam has carried out community service activities that emphasize the importance of Family Christian Religious Education (PAK) to enhance children's spirituality. The main focus is on improving the spirituality of children or teenagers, considering the significant impact of digitalization challenges. In conducting the Community Service (PkM), the team provided training and guidance to 43 Christian parents in the GEPKIM Kampung Bumi Permai congregation about the importance of maintaining and enhancing the spirituality of teenagers amidst the influence of digitalization. The results of this activity showed a positive impact, where the participants, namely the parents, experienced an increase in knowledge and creativity in guiding teenagers in accordance with Christian teachings (Marisi et al. (2023).

The community service activities conducted by the team from the State Christian Protestant College (STAKPN) in Sentani emphasize strengthening spiritual values in youth leadership. This is important given the need for thorough preparation for teenagers who will take on roles as future leaders. An effective leader not only requires technical skills but also needs strong mental resilience and deep spiritual awareness, following the example of Christ. The question detailed in this

activity is, "How can community service activities focusing on strengthening the spiritual values of youth leadership character provide a strong foundation for them to become leaders of integrity who follow the example of Christ in every aspect of their lives?"

METHOD

The service activities carried out by the team from STAKPN-Sentani were carried out for 2 days, starting from May 05-06, 2024. The activity stages are divided into pre-core activities and core activities. Pre-core activities are a form of observation and interview with the school on things that need to be strengthened for students in facing an era full of complexity. While the core activity is a form of implementation of coaching to students of SMTK Gloria Sentani in the form of lectures and discussions. In carrying out the core activities, the material presented and discussed together with partners is the planet of youth, and the urgency/consequences of each step taken. The following is a further explanation of the method of activities carried out in the field.

1. **Observation and Interview**

   Observation and interview activities are separate activities from the core activities. First, the team conducted field observations related to the place and time of implementation. This activity is carried out to ensure the preparation of tools and materials that need to be prepared in carrying out the core activities (Kabanga, 2021). Meanwhile, interviews were conducted to ensure the form of coaching that would be given to partners. Interviews were conducted with the principal and PAK teacher as well as digging up information about the needs of partners, namely students of SMTK Gloria Sentani. This activity was carried out on May 05, 2024. The percentage proportion of this activity is 10% of the total activities carried out.

2. **Seminar dan Discussion**

   Both seminars and discussions have important roles in supporting learning, professional development and collaboration. Seminars tend to be more structured and focus on delivering information from experts to participants, whereas discussions are more interactive and focus on the exchange of ideas and collaboration between all participants (Kabanga et al., 2023). Both are complementary and can be used simultaneously to achieve more effective results. The core activity in this service is a seminar coupled with a discussion. This activity is an educational activity because it is a coaching to adolescents or partners at SMTK Gloria Sentani about the importance of recognizing the planet of adolescents so that they can be expected to become leaders in the future. this activity requires a percentage proportion of 60% of the total activity.

3. **Documentation**

   The next stage is report writing. This stage is a documentation process in which the results of activities are reported to be accounted for. The results of the service activities carried out by the PkM team from STAKPN-Sentani are compiled in a national PkM journal article for publication. This stage describes systematically and scientifically described to be accounted for. The proportion of this activity is 15% of the total activities. **Dissemination**

   The dissemination of knowledge, information and innovations to audiences is highly demanded in the world of education. This process is called dissemination. The spread and application of innovations carried out in a planned and gradual manner is part of the definition of dissemination (Saleh et al., 2022). In this case, the results of this service will be disseminated openly in the STAKPN-Sentani environment which includes the results that have been achieved and the ongoing reforms. The proportion of this activity is 15% of the total planned activities. From the method of implementing activities that the percentage of activity stages is hated according to the level of complexity as shown in the table below; (Saleh et al., 2022).

No	Activity stages	Percentage
1	Observation an Interview	10%
2	Lecture and discussion	60%
3	Documentation	15%
4	Dissemination	15%
total		100%

Tabel 1. Persentase kegiatan

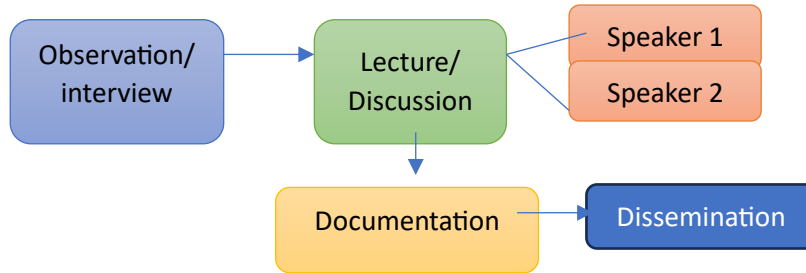The derived activity framework is as follows;

Diagram 1. Activity rundown

The initial stage is observation and interviews which are then followed up with core activities in the form of lectures and discussions. The results of these stages are made in the form of a report that produces a journal to be scientifically accountable and at the same time disseminate knowledge through the dissemination process in the STAKPN-Sentani environment.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of each stage conducted at SMTK Gloria Sentani can be elaborated as follows;

1. **Results of Observation and Discussion**

The activities conducted at SMTK Gloria Sentani began with observation and interviews. The observation process was carried out to gather accurate information about the location and timing of the implementation, while interviews were conducted with partners represented by the school principal and PAK teacher. The results obtained from this process were agreements on timing and materials between both parties. The time provided by the school was agreed upon, as well as an agreement with the students. The agreed-upon timing for the core activity was May

6th, 2024. Meanwhile, the results of the interviews indicated weaknesses in character and spirituality in facing the challenges of the times. Therefore, the prepared materials could be systematically explained.

2. **Result of Educative Stage**

The educational stage is conducted in the form of lectures and discussions. This stage involves both parties, namely the community service team from STAKPN-Sentani and the partner, SMTK Gloria Sentani. The activity was attended enthusiastically by the students of SMTK Gloria Sentani. The reason they participated in the activity is that the material provided is relevant to their context and needs. There were 25 students present at the event. The material in this activity is divided into 2 parts. The first material is about teenagers and the church, and the second material is about the teen planet. The topics and speakers can be seen in the table below:

No	Core Material	Speakers	Moderator

| 1 | Youth and the Church | Seprianti E. Pandi, M.Pd.K | Lewi Kabanga', M.Hum |
| 2 | Youth Plenary | Markus S. Gainau, M.Pd.K | Novalia E.A.Y.Karetji, S.Th |

Tabel 2. Arrangement of PkM activity materials

The urgency of the material presented in this activity lies in understanding the contextual situation of teenagers and the church's expectations for youth. Furthermore, this activity aims to strengthen and develop the spiritual values of teenagers at SMTK Gloria Sentani. The goal of enhancing teenagers' spirituality is to make them more faithful, obedient, and morally upright (Sidabutar & Banunaek, 2022). The study of the material presented in enhancing teenagers' spiritual values includes religious and spiritual knowledge, emotional development of children, moral and ethical values, and the search for meaning and life purpose. Christian education emphasizes the application of ethics and morals. Moral values can be shaped according to the environment (Manik & Pasaribu, 2023). The application of moral and ethical values for teenagers at SMTK Gloria Sentani is adjusted to the rules and guidelines provided by the church as well as the contextual needs of the school community.

Foto. 1 kegiatan inti, ceramah diskusi di SMTK Gloria Sentani

Teaching about the teen planet encourages teenagers to develop spiritual values and internal and external relationships. Artini (2018) asserts that the development of children's mentality is influenced by factors within the child and environmental influences. Contextually, the environment is a major factor that strongly urges teenagers to change their tendencies. The environment in question includes family, peers, school, and mass media, all of which play significant roles in shaping the mindset and behavior of teenagers. For example, a supportive family that provides positive examples of values can help teenagers develop strong spirituality and morality. On the other hand, peer pressure or negative influences from social media can lead teenagers to make decisions that are not in line with the values they believe in. Therefore, it is important for all elements within the teenage environment to actively play a role in creating a conducive climate for their mental and spiritual development.

From the taught material, it can be observed that students of SMTK Gloria Sentani understand mapping and the alignment of expectations. They have demonstrated significant abilities in identifying and designing maps that depict their aspirations and goals for the future. This is evidenced through various projects and assignments they have worked on, where they not only comprehend the theory behind mapping but also apply it in practical and relevant contexts to everyday life. This understanding reflects their depth of knowledge about the importance of planning for the future and how mapping can be an effective tool in formulating the

necessary steps to achieve their goals. Furthermore, mastering the alignment of expectations indicates that they are capable of seeing the big picture, mapping potential challenges and opportunities, and articulating a clear and focused vision for their future.

3.   Result of Education

The documentation results are designed in the form of accountability reports. Accountability reports are demanded in a complete report format that begins with design, activities, and achievements. From this report, it is followed by the publication of scientific works in the form of journal articles. The purpose of PkM publication is to provide a platform for academic communication for scholars scientifically (Kabanga et al., 2023). The process of preparing the report begins with a detailed planning stage, including objectives, methodology, and tools used. Furthermore, the report records every step of the activities performed, including data collection, analysis, and interpretation of results. Every achievement obtained during the activities is also recorded in detail, emphasizing the achievement of goals and success indicators that have been set since the beginning. After the accountability report is prepared, the next step is to prepare journal articles. This article will summarize the main findings of the report, presented in scientific language and following the standard journal writing format. This journal article includes an abstract, introduction, method, results, discussion, and conclusion, as well as a relevant bibliography. By publishing in the form of journal articles, these works are not only well-documented but also accessible to a wider audience. This enables the dissemination of knowledge and findings that can contribute to related scientific fields. This process also promotes transparency and accountability, as well as enhancing the credibility and reputation of the institution or individual conducting the research

CONCLUSION

Guidance for teenagers is highly urgent, considering the increasing complexity of phenomena surrounding adolescents. The PkM team from STAKPN-Sentani provides reinforcement to students of SMTK Gloria Sentani regarding Christian values in shaping their identities. Teen planet is the core material disseminated in this activity. The formation of an optimistic attitude is a significant hope to be achieved by the service team. The results of this activity indicate that students' understanding of the importance of Christian values in daily life is increasing. Furthermore, the students also demonstrate cognitive maturity in understanding the concept of the teen planet, which helps them formulate steps for a better future. With ongoing support, it is hoped that students of SMTK Gloria Sentani will be able to face global challenges with strong faith and integrity, and become witnesses of Christ in every aspect of their lives.

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