

EDUCATIONAL SYNERGY OF PKBM GEMILANG MANDIRI AND KAMPUS AL-QUR'AN WIDYA SILAHUDIN SIDIQ IN BOGOR REGENCY

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Abstract

This study aims to examine the educational synergy between PKBM Gemilang Mandiri and Kampus Al-Qur'an in a free school program designed to enhance the academic abilities and skills of the community in Bogor Regency. The method used in this research is a qualitative approach, with data collection techniques including interviews, observations, and documentation studies. The results show that the collaboration between PKBM Gemilang Mandiri and Kampus Al-Qur'an not only increases access to education for the community but also positively impacts improving the quality of education, both in academic aspects and practical skills. This program has raised awareness about the importance of education among the local community and encouraged the active participation of older learners in the learning process. Recommendations from this study include the need for further development of educational programs involving the community and the enhancement of supporting facilities at the location. This synergy is expected to serve as a model for other free education initiatives in various regions.

Keywords: PKBM, Free School, Bogor, Synergy

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INTRODUCTION

Education has become one of the important focal points in the Merah Putih cabinet. President Prabowo Subianto has mandated the Ministry of Education and Culture (Kemendikbud) to expand access to education in Indonesia. The Minister of Education and Culture, Abdul Mu'ti, prepared two solutions to achieve this goal. The first solution relates to revitalizing non-formal education as an essential part of Kemendikbud in providing and opening access to education. The second solution is establishing as many learning centres as possible with various approaches, whether through community initiatives or formal schools. He conveyed this at the opening event of the Language and Literature Month Exhibition at the A Building of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Jl. Jenderal Sudirman, Senayan, Jakarta, on October 28, 2024.

Before that, Kampus Al-Qur'an Widya Silahudin Boarding School had long been opening learning centres at the boarding school, teaching the students and providing skill-building access for Nanggewer Village, Bogor Regency residents. Regarding formal diplomas, this boarding school collaborates with regular schools specifically for its students. Furthermore, the pesantren has an annual schedule for international events, hosting students from Huntingtower School in Australia and Dwiwarna High School, one of Indonesia's elite schools. These three schools meet regularly each year to learn about the creativity of the pesantren students, such as making batik, crafting from recycled materials, writing books, sewing bags, producing films, and more. Kampus Al-Qur'an is quite advanced, but they cannot accommodate many children for schooling due to financial constraints. Eventually, the boarding school collaborated with the Community Learning Activity Center (PKBM) Gemilang Mandiri, which provides scholarships for non-formal education through free schools for packages A, B, and C. This educational synergy has had an extraordinary impact on the surrounding community, as the students and residents from various regions of Bogor Regency have registered. These include underprivileged individuals who dropped out of school due to costs or adults who still hope to change their circumstances through a diploma.

The Assessment Team of PAUD-PDM from the West Java Provincial, Santi Susilawati, MPd, and Rini Novianti Yusuf, MPd, who visited and evaluated the free school at Kampus Al-Qur'an Widya Silahudin Sidiq under the auspices of PKBM Gemilang Mandiri on October 26-27, 2024, praised the wise steps taken by PKBM Gemilang Mandiri to collaborate with the Al-Qur'an Widya Silahudin Sidiq.

Educational synergy is certainly not easy, but the process will feel easier if the vision and mission align to educate the nation's life.

Santi Susilawati also expressed her emotion and pride that, in large cities or districts, there are still people who care about the fate of orphans and the underprivileged. They strive to collaborate to provide education and skills through free school programs to improve welfare in the future. Meanwhile, Rini Novianti Yusuf hopes that the synergy between these institutions, Kampus Al-Qur'an Widya Silahudin Sidiq and PKBM Gemilang Mandiri, can become even more solid and advanced. Not only helping the people of Bogor Regency but also providing opportunities to weave dreams for communities in other regions.

Educational synergy is collaboration between institutions, organizations, or communities to achieve better educational goals. In this context, synergy creates a combination of resources, knowledge, and expertise from various parties to enhance education quality and expand community access.

Through synergy, educational programs can be more effective, creative, innovative, and relevant to community needs. For example, educational synergy can involve cooperation between formal and non-formal educational institutions, community organizations, and the private sector in providing integrated facilities, curricula, and training that support academic development and individual skills because education is a process of changing the attitudes and behaviours of individuals or groups to mature humans through teaching and training efforts, which is the process of educating (Depdiknas, 2013).

Education is every citizen's basic right and is a key pillar in human resource development. In Indonesia, efforts to provide free education continue, particularly in underserved areas. Government Regulation Number 47 of 2008 states that:

Compulsory education is organized through formal, non-formal, and informal education.

Islamic boarding schools (Pesantren), as institutions of religious education, also play an important role in creating a character-driven generation. On the other hand, the Community Learning Activity Center (PKBM) contributes to providing access to alternative education.

The synergy between Kampus Al-Qur'an and PKBM Yayasan Gemilang in Bogor Regency is expected to improve the quality and accessibility of free education for everyone, regardless of age. It has been proven that since collaborating with Yayasan Gemilang Mandiri, Kampus Al-Qur'an Widya Silahudin Sidiq, under the auspices of Yayasan KH Udjang Sidiq, can now accept not only students for their santri but also victims of rape and those who have dropped out of school, including middle-aged individuals like labourers, the unemployed, and homemakers. They come to school to learn according to their abilities, as Kampus Al-Qur'an Widya Silahudin Sidiq offers classes in the morning, afternoon, evening, night, and online formats. This flexible learning group is specifically for those who want to catch up on their education. Their hopes are high that if they can complete their education up to high school, they can secure better jobs, such as in factories, which will improve their welfare. They are not only equipped with general knowledge according to the educational package programs they follow, but they also gain valuable skills. For instance, they learn sewing, makeup, bread-making, computer skills, and karate. This enables them to choose independent professions such as entrepreneurs in the sewing industry, wedding makeup artists or bakers, working in offices utilizing their computer skills, or even applying for jobs as security guards due to their basic martial arts training. Of course, the process is not easy. While the students can easily follow lessons because they are still of school age, this special learning group initially needs a long adaptation period. They have not held books and writing tools for a long time; mothers sit in class nervously while cradling their babies, and men often scratch their heads and blush when they must learn to read. Not everyone is pursuing the Package C program (equivalent to high school); many are just starting with Package A (equivalent to elementary school) because they have never attended school. However, as time passes, they all eventually follow the lessons as they should. From an educational perspective, humans are homo educative. The helplessness of a person at birth presents an opportunity for humans to be educated (Abdul Rahmat, Educational Theory, 2010). There are no barriers to the learning process because all humans can be educated and taught. The role

of the teacher, or what is referred to in the PKBM world as a tutor, is crucial for providing motivation and self-confidence to these adults so they can participate effectively in the teaching and learning process. Once they feel comfortable and accustomed, they will be trained to motivate themselves to develop a strong desire to learn.

Kampus Al-Qur'an Widya Silahudin Sidiq initially started as a free school plus a boarding school for orphans, funded by the personal contributions of the founders and several tentative donors. They established the school in the pesantren in collaboration with several public schools. This meant they had to pay for the diplomas for their students. However, the number of students increased over time, requiring considerable funding. Fortunately, their difficulties eased when PKBM Gemilang Mandiri offered a social education partnership. In 2023, the Gemilang Mandiri Foundation officially partnered with the KH Udjang Sidiq Foundation, which owns the boarding school. After this collaboration, students rose from 30 to 50 due to the expanded scholarship opportunities provided by the PKBM's educational programs. Not only that, but the pesantren also began accepting underprivileged individuals who had dropped out of school from various age groups and professional backgrounds, bringing the total number of learners to 103. This includes 50 orphan students, 2 online learners who are survivors of sexual assault, and 53 underprivileged individuals who had dropped out of school. The success of the educational synergy between PKBM Gemilang Mandiri and Kampus Al-Qur'an Widya Silahudin Sidiq cannot be viewed from a single personal perspective. For instance, this synergy between the two institutions not only provides opportunities for orphans and the underprivileged to learn but also imparts valuable lessons about the importance of cooperation, patience, confidence, and compassion in building strength for collective progress. According to Paulo Freire (Political Education, 2000), humans educate each other worldwide. This means that education is not a one-way process. People learn from one another, interact, and share experiences. This demonstrates that every individual has the potential to be both a teacher and a learner. It also indicates that the environment and social context significantly influence the educational process. The surrounding world, including culture, values, and collective experiences, serves as a medium for the learning process.

METHODS

This research uses a qualitative approach as its main method, aiming to deeply and clearly describe the research findings documented in writing. According to Saryono (2010: 49), qualitative research is used to investigate, discover, describe, and explain the qualities or characteristics of a social influence that cannot be explained, measured, or described through a quantitative approach. Literature review becomes a key component of the conceptual framework, theories, and previous findings that can serve as a foundation for the direction of scientific study. The research can then be elaborated in a systematic written study, as references from earlier theories still apply to the present day. Data collection is conducted through participatory observation, interviews, and literature review. The qualitative research method is chosen to obtain more detailed and comprehensive information from participants about their perspectives and experiences related to the research topic. Observation is used to directly observe the teaching and learning process, providing a comprehensive picture of the success of the educational synergy between PKBM and boarding school, with indicators such as the increasing number of learners, including older individuals who remain eager to pursue education.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The functions of education, as outlined by Horton Paul B, Chester, Hunt, 1987, include preparing members of society to earn a living, developing individual talents for personal satisfaction and for the benefit of society, preserving culture, and instilling the skills necessary for participation in democracy. The educational synergy between PKBM Gemilang Mandiri and Kampus Al-Qur'an Widya Silahudin Sidiq is a collaborative effort that empowers each member to fulfil these functions. It prepares members of society who are capable of earning a living to support their families, after the learners have developed the talents and skills obtained from this free non-formal school.

However, both collaborating institutions should be better prepared to face the rapid developments of their free school programs, particularly by increasing the number of tutors and tutor training, enhancing teaching and learning facilities, and expanding educational cooperation at both national and international levels.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings, it can be concluded that PKBM Gemilang Mandiri and Kampus Al-Qur'an Widya Silahudin Sidiq have successfully built an educational synergy through a free school in Bogor Regency. This collaboration has been running well since 2023, receiving support from the government and the surrounding community. The increase in the number of learners not only indicates a strong desire within the community to achieve free and quality education but also the urgent need for more tutors to support this growing demand. This free school provides hope for those who are no longer young, as they can still seize opportunities to improve their living conditions significantly. A diploma is needed to secure job openings with decent salaries. Skills such as sewing, cooking, and crafts taught at this free school also empower learners to confidently start their own businesses. So far, no obstacles have been identified; however, it is crucial to increase the number of tutors as the number of learners is likely to grow. Currently, there are only 6 tutors from Kampus Al-Qur'an Widya Silahudin Sidiq and 3 from Yayasan Gemilang Mandiri, along with volunteers from various backgrounds who take turns sharing knowledge and skills. Support for the promotion of this educational social program is also needed from various parties to encourage more community members to join the classes offered by this free school. Here is a graph showing the difference in the number of students at Kampus Al-Qur'an Widya Silahudin Sidiq, before and after joining PKBM Gemilang Mandiri;

Table 1. The data from 2022 to 2024

Number of Students		Year	Student	Description
	1.	2022	30	Before joining PKBM Gemilang Mandiri
	2.	2023	50	Before joining PKBM Gemilang Mandiri
	3.	2024	103	After joining PKBM Gemilang Mandiri

Source: data from Kampus Al-Qur'an Widya Silahudin Sidiq

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