

**FRIENDSHIP QUALITY-BASED ISLAMIC CHARACTER
FORMATION: THE MEDIATING ROLE OF RELIGIOUS
COMMITMENT AMONG STUDENTS AT MA'HAD
AL-JAMI'AH UINSA SURABAYA**

THESIS



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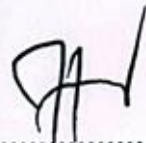
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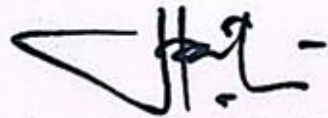
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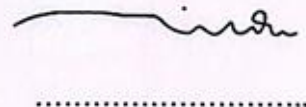
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ABSTRACT

Moh. Saddam Muhibbi, 2025. Friendship-Based Islamic Character Formation: The Mediating Role of Religious Commitment Among Students at Ma'had Al-Jami'ah Uinsa Surabaya. Thesis. Master of Islamic Education Study Program. Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training. Sunan Ampel State Islamic University Surabaya. Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Hj. Husniyatus Salamah Zainiyati, M.Ag, and Dr. Abdul Hamid Busthami Nur, PhD.

The limited academic literature on social aspects and character development in Islamic education, particularly regarding the underlying mechanisms, presents a critical gap, as character is a central goal of Islamic education. This study examines whether religious commitment serves as a mediator in the relationship between friendship quality and Islamic character among students at Ma'had Al-Jami'ah UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

Grounded in Bandura's Social Learning Theory, Mendelson & Aboud's friendship framework, Worthington's Religious Commitment Inventory, and Al-Ghazali's theory of Islamic character, this study employs a quantitative survey approach. A total of 190 students participated, and the data were analysed using partial least squares structural equation modelling (PLS-SEM) with SmartPLS 4.0.

The findings reveal that friendship quality has a strong and significant positive effect on students' religious commitment ($f^2 = 0.422$, $p < 0.001$), and religious commitment significantly predicts Islamic character ($f^2 = 0.424$, $p < 0.001$). While the direct effect of friendship quality on Islamic character remains significant, it is relatively weaker ($f^2 = 0.063$, $p < 0.008$). Moreover, religious commitment partially mediates the relationship between friendship quality and Islamic character ($f^2 = 0.092$, $p < 0.001$), suggesting that the influence of friendship quality on moral development is more effective when internalized religious values are involved.

Theoretically, these results advance understanding of the socio-religious mechanisms underlying character formation in Islamic educational contexts, highlighting that high-quality friendships serve as a key social factor that strengthens religious commitment, which in turn fosters moral development. Practically, the findings suggest that social interactions beyond classroom teaching and learning are essential in shaping students' Islamic character.

Keywords: Friendship, Religious Commitment, and Islamic Character.

ABSTRAK

Moh. Saddam Muhibbi, 2025. Pembentukan Karakter Islam Berbasis Persahabatan: Peran Mediasi Komitmen Beragama di Kalangan Mahasiswa Ma'had Al-Jami'ah UINSA Surabaya. Tesis. Program Studi Magister Pendidikan Islam. Fakultas Tarbiyah dan Keguruan. Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: Prof. Dr. Hj. Husniyatus Salamah Zainiyati, M.Ag, dan Dr. Abdul Hamid Busthami Nur, PhD.

Literatur akademik yang terbatas tentang aspek sosial dan pengembangan karakter dalam pendidikan Islam, khususnya mengenai mekanisme yang mendasarinya, menghadirkan kesenjangan kritis, karena karakter adalah tujuan utama pendidikan Islam. Penelitian ini menyelidiki apakah komitmen beragama menjadi mediasi hubungan antara kualitas persahabatan dan karakter Islam di kalangan mahasiswa di Ma'had Al-Jami'ah UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

Didasarkan pada Teori Pembelajaran Sosial Bandura, kerangka persahabatan Mendelson & Aboud, Inventarisasi Komitmen Agama Worthington, dan teori karakter Islam Al-Ghazali, penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan survei kuantitatif. Sebanyak 190 mahasiswa berpartisipasi, dan data dianalisis menggunakan partial least squares structural equation modelling (PLS-SEM) dengan SmartPLS 4.0.

Temuan tersebut mengungkapkan bahwa kualitas persahabatan memiliki efek positif yang kuat dan signifikan terhadap komitmen beragama siswa ($f^2 = 0,422$, $p < 0,001$), dan komitmen beragama secara signifikan memprediksi karakter Islam ($f^2 = 0,424$, $p < 0,001$). Sementara efek langsung dari kualitas persahabatan pada karakter Islam tetap signifikan, relatif lebih lemah ($f^2 = 0,063$, $p < 0,008$). Selain itu, komitmen beragama sebagian memediasi hubungan antara kualitas persahabatan dan karakter Islam ($f^2 = 0,092$, $p < 0,001$), menunjukkan bahwa pengaruh kualitas persahabatan terhadap perkembangan moral beroperasi lebih efektif ketika nilai-nilai agama yang terinternalisasi terlibat.

Secara teoritis, hasil ini memajukan pemahaman tentang mekanisme sosial-agama yang mendasari pembentukan karakter dalam konteks pendidikan Islam, menyoroti bahwa persahabatan berkualitas tinggi berfungsi sebagai faktor sosial kunci yang memperkuat komitmen religius, yang pada gilirannya mendorong pengembangan moral. Secara praktis, temuan menunjukkan bahwa interaksi sosial di luar pengajaran dan pembelajaran di kelas sangat penting dalam membentuk karakter Islam siswa.

Kata kunci: Persahabatan, Komitmen Beragama, dan Karakter Islami.

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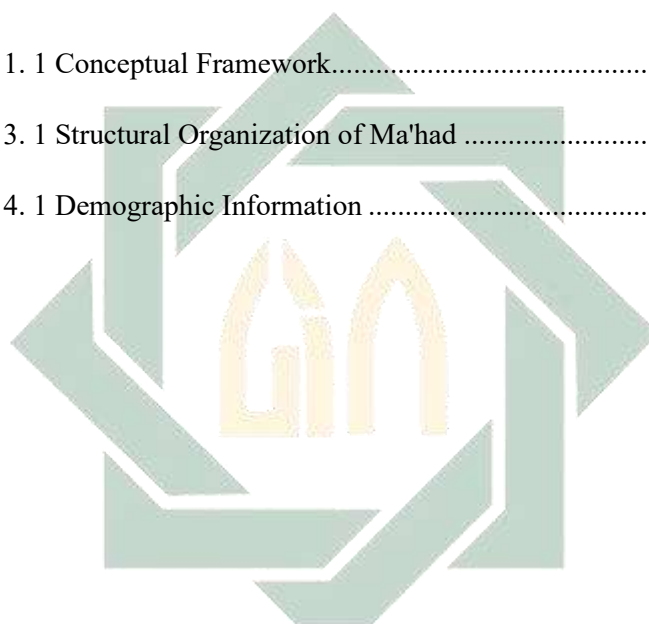
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