

STUDY OF THE YELLOW BOOK AS AN EFFORT TO INCREASE COMMUNITY RELIGIOSITY

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Abstract - *This research examines the influence of the yellow Islamic classic book study program, especially the Tanqih al-Qaul al-Hatsits book, in improving the religiosity of the Petungsewu hamlet community. Using the Participatory Action Research (PAR) method, this research actively involved the community in the process of learning the yellow Islamic classic book using the Bandongan method at the Baiturrohim Mosque. The program, which was implemented for six weeks with six meetings, succeeded in deepening the community's understanding of various religious practices through in-depth explanations of the virtues of daily actions. The results showed that this program not only strengthened the community's religious understanding but also improved their religious practices from habitual to knowledge-based. The positive response of the community and the head of the mosque takmir further confirms the success of the program in strengthening the cultural identity and religious values of the community.*

Keywords: *Yellow Book, Religiousness, Community*

A. INTRODUCTION

Community religiosity is an important aspect in shaping the character and cultural identity of a community. The term “religion” in this context can be interpreted as religion, which basically refers to the concept of binding or attachment (Firmansyah & Putrisari, 2017). Religiosity, or religious attitudes, can be understood as an integration process of several important components. These include the cognitive element, which involves an individual's knowledge of religious teachings; the affective element, which describes a person's feelings and emotions towards the religious experiences they undergo; and the psychomotor element, which relates to concrete actions carried out based on the religious knowledge possessed (Rahmawati, 2016). In addition, there are various factors that can affect a person's level of religious understanding and practice, such as educational background, social environment, and personal experience (Herawati et al., 2020).

Indonesia, known for its religious and cultural diversity, has its own efforts to improve the religiosity of the community. This is often done through various media, including through the study of the yellow book. Yellow Islamic classic books have deep historical roots in the Middle East, where the term known is *al-kutub al-muqaddimah* or classical books (Putra & Yusr, 2019). In general, the yellow book refers to a collection of literature that discusses various aspects of Islamic religious knowledge with a broad scope. This literature covers topics such as hadith, fiqh (Islamic law), morals (ethics), akidah (belief), Arabic language, Islamic history, as well as various other disciplines relevant to religious studies (Mustofa, 2019).

Yellow books are generally printed on yellow paper, a characteristic that distinguishes them from other types of books. These books are usually written in Arabic and do not use punctuation marks (*syakal*), which often adds to the difficulty of reading them. These works are written by scholars who have mastered their fields in depth, including both classical scholars who wrote in the past and contemporary scholars who are active today (Rasyidi et al., 2022). The yellow book not only serves as a source of knowledge, but also as an important cultural heritage in the Islamic scholarly tradition.

One of the books that has a significant role in strengthening and improving religiosity among Muslim communities is the *Tanqih al-Qaul al-Hatsits*. This book is well known among pesantren and is used as a reference by kiai in teaching the virtues of daily acts of worship that are often forgo en. The book is a commentary on hadith that is taught not only to the students, but also to the general public. Compiled by the great Indonesian scholar Sheikh Nawawi al-Bantani (1813-1897 CE), it serves as a commentary on selected traditions from Imam as-Suyuthi's *Lubab al-Hadith* (1445-1505 CE).

There are 40 chapters explaining the virtues of deeds in daily life in this book that provide in-depth explanations of various selected hadiths in *Lubab al-Hadith*. Some of the important practices discussed in this book include the fadhilah or virtues of performing sunnah worship, knowledge and scholars, basmalah, salawat to the Prophet Muhammad SAW, tasbih, wearing a turban, ge ing married, being patient, charity, istighfar, archery, repentance, ablution, siwak, the virtues of Friday, and reducing laughter, among others.

Petungsewu Hamlet has a population that is thick with religious values. This can be seen from their enthusiasm in carrying out religious activities, such as the Friday night routine, which includes tahlil, manaqib and sholawat events, as well as the habit of reading together wirid readings after congregational prayers.

Nevertheless, the understanding of religious teachings that the community has is still fairly lacking. They only carry out religious activities out of habit, but are not based on religious knowledge that should be able to become a proposition in order to perfect and strengthen religiosity. This study aims to examine how the community understands the book of *Tanqih al-Qaul al-Hatsits*, as well as to find out how the yellow book study program contributes to increasing community religiosity in Petungsewu Hamlet.

Research on the study of the yellow book related to this topic has certainly been carried out by many other researchers. Among them are research on improving community religiosity through the study of hadith and wirid ratib al-hadad organized by Faisol et al. in Merjosari Village, Lowokwaru District, Malang City (Faisol et al., 2023). Then there is research wri en by Syamsuri et al. as students of

UIN Alauddin Makassar, with the title of the influence of the mangaji tudang method in increasing the knowledge of reading the yellow book of students in the central as'adiyah daughter's mas sengkang (Syamsuri et al., 2023). In addition, Muhammad Arafat and Dzulkifli Hadi Imawan conducted research on the study of Islamic law in the book of Bulugh al-Maram and its influence on the religious practices of the Al-Hidayah Kimpulan mosque community (M. Arafat et al., 2019).

Based on previous studies, there has been no research that examines objects and subjects that are identical to those studied in this study. This research offers novelty by exploring the effect of studying the book of *Tanqih al-Qaul al-Hatsits* directly on the understanding of the religiosity of the Petungsewu hamlet community. In addition, this study provides insight into the implementation of religious teachings through the book of *Tanqih al-Qaul al-Hatsits* in everyday life.

By understanding the dynamics that have been described, the benefits of research or the conditions expected by the implementation of the Yellow Islamic Book Study Program are that it can make a meaningful contribution and good impression on the community, so that it can make people's lives *ilmiah-amaliyah* and *amaliyah-ilmiah*, namely people who have knowledge and then practice it, and the deeds they do are based on the knowledge they have. Based on this, this research becomes very important with the title 'Kitab Kuning Study as an Effort to Increase Knowledge of Community Religiousness'.

B. METHOD

The Participatory Action Research (PAR) method was used in this study to explore and improve the religiosity knowledge of the Petungsewu Hamlet community through the study of the *Tanqih al-Qaul al-Hatsits* book. The PAR approach was chosen because it prioritizes close cooperation between the researcher and the research subject, where both play a role as a trigger or lighter (Rahman et al., 2021). PAR emphasizes active engagement between the researcher and the community, with the collaborative goal of identifying problems, designing solutions, and implementing actions together.

In this approach, researchers work directly with community members to formulate problems related to religiosity and collect data through observations, interviews and discussions. By creating an inclusive and empowering space for the community, PAR not only produces more accurate data but also has a direct positive impact on the community, and is able to ensure that the research results are academically and practically useful.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Tanqih al-Qaul al-Hatsits program was held at the Baiturrohim Mosque, Petungsewu Hamlet. In its implementation, this program is applied through the Bandongan method, a classical technique often used in teaching in salaf Islamic boarding schools. Simplified, the Ustadz, in this case filled by representatives of KKN students, reads the book and provides in-depth explanations of the meaning of each reading, while the congregation listens and listens carefully (Chairi, 2019). This learning practice basically continues the scientific tradition of the previous scholars who are connected to the Prophet Muhammad, especially in Islamic religious studies.

This yellow book study is carried out regularly every Tuesday night after the maghrib congregation at the Baiturrohim Mosque during the KKN program. With the limited duration of KKN, this program was successfully implemented for six meetings

in a period of six weeks.

The first meeting discussed the preamble of the book, which contains the background of Sheikh Nawawi in writing this book. The next meeting was then filled with explanations of chapters that explain the virtues of charity. Starting from the first chapter which discusses the glory of knowledge and scholars, the second chapter on the virtues of laa ilaaha illallah, followed by the third chapter which explains the virtues of reading basmalah, and the last chapter explained in the last meeting is the fourth chapter on the virtues of salawat upon the Prophet SAW.

In each meeting, the congregation not only gets a deep understanding of the contents of the yellow book, but also gets interesting stories from the editor of the

hadith that are able to motivate people in worship and provide relevance for everyday life.



Figure 1. Ustadz provides book study material

The picture shows the ustadz providing material during the study of the book *Tanqih al-Qaul al-Hatsists* using the *bandongan* method. This method is considered quite interactive in the teaching process in the mosque. In addition to the delivery of material by the ustadz, many worshipers show enthusiasm by listening and appreciating the material being discussed.

This program received a very positive response from the community, especially from the head of the takmir of the Baiturrohim Mosque, Mr. Shodiq. He was touched by the presence of this program and emphasized the importance of the yellow book study as a big step in deepening religious teachings and maintaining the scientific tradition in Petungsewu Hamlet. In his statement, Mr. Shodiq revealed that this was the first time a KKN program had brought the yellow book study to the mosque, and he felt proud and moved by the initiative. Because according to him, with this yellow book study program, the community has increased their religious knowledge and increased their insight into religiosity. This shows that the program has not only had a positive impact religiously, but has also aroused community pride and enthusiasm in maintaining the Islamic scholarly tradition.

After the implementation of the yellow book study, there were a number of positive impacts felt by the community, especially in the aspect of religiosity. Researchers sought to explore the development of community religiosity that could be measured quantitatively after participating in the study program. As stated by Mr. Trimolah, that by following the yellow book study, those who previously performed worship activities only out of habit, are now able to rely on religious knowledge that refers to the arguments contained in the hadith.

Based on the results of interviews with respondents, it was revealed that the community was able to understand and appreciate the material presented by the ustadz, because the explanations given were contextual and easy to understand. In addition, the discussion of the virtues of charity is well received by the community, such as honoring knowledge and scholars, the virtue of the phrase *laa ilaaha illallah*, and the virtue of reciting *basmalah* and *shalawat*. These materials are part of the practice of worship that is often practiced by the community, but the reference arguments have not been known by the community before.

D. CONCLUSION

From the results of this study, it can be concluded that the KKN work program of *Tanqih al-Qaul al-Hatsits Yellow Book Study* succeeded in improving the religiosity aspects of the *Petungsewu Hamlet* community. The study program that is held regularly at the *Baiturrohim Mosque* not only provides new insights into religious teachings, but also strengthens people's understanding of various practices that have become part of their daily lives. Through the *Bandongan* method, the community receives in-depth and contextual explanations. The material presented was also able to change the community's perspective, from simply practicing worship based on habit to a practice based on religious knowledge in accordance with the hadith arguments. The positive response from the community, including the head of the mosque *takmir*, shows that this program not only increases religious knowledge, but also generates enthusiasm in maintaining the Islamic scientific tradition. Thus, the yellow Islamic classic book study program not only contributes

to improving religious understanding but also strengthens the community's cultural identity that is thick with religious values.

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