

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Choosing the right school for children is an important decision faced by many parents. In this context, the choice between private and public schools is often a major consideration. Previous research has shown that factors such as quality of education, religious values, cost and location play an important role in this decision. In the context of Islamic education, this decision becomes more complex due to the consideration of religious values and character education¹.

Parents often seek an environment that can support their child's intellectual and spiritual growth. Private schools, especially faith-based ones, are often perceived as being able to provide a more personalized education and more integrated religious values². In contrast, public schools are often chosen for their more affordable costs and wider access to educational resources³. In addition, factors such as school reputation, academic results, and facilities are also important consideration⁴. Given the importance of these factors, a deeper understanding of how parents make these decisions is necessary to understand the dynamics of education today.

¹ Al-Sayed, K dan Mohammed, S. (2022). *Islamic Education and Modern Challenges*. *Journal of Educational Studies*, 39(2), 114-128.

² Peterson, L. (2019). *The Role of Religious Schools in Modern Society*. *Religion and Education Review*, 45(1), 33-47.

³ Smith, J dan Davis, R. (2020). *Public vs. Private Education: Parental Perspectives and Choices*. *Journal of School Choice*, 14(3), 410-429.

⁴ Johnson, M. K. (2022). *Factors Influencing School Selection: A Study of Parental Priorities*. *Educational Research Quarterly*, 45(4), 58-72.

This study has revealed some important findings regarding the factors that influence parents' decision in choosing between private and public schools for their children at the MA level particularly in the Mojokerto district area. Statistical analysis shows that the quality of education is the most dominant factor in this decision-making process⁵. This is consistent with previous studies that emphasize the importance of education quality in school choice⁶.

In addition, the integration of Islamic values in schools is also a major consideration for parents, especially in neighborhoods with a significant Muslim population⁷. This reflects the tendency of parents to prioritize religious education in school teaching. Other factors such as tuition fees and school location also play a significant role, but not as much as educational quality and religious values. This suggests that while economic and logistical factors are important, they tend to be secondary considerations after the quality and value of education⁸. By understanding these factors, schools can develop better strategies to meet parents' needs and preferences.

The results of this study show that parents' decisions in choosing a school for their children are influenced by a combination of factors, with

⁵ Ibid. Page. 73.

⁶ Brown, A. (2021). *Educational Choices: Parents, Socio-economic Status, and School Types*. New York: Education Press.

⁷ Al-Sayed, K dan Mohammed, S. (2022). *Islamic Education and Modern Challenges*. *Journal of Educational Studies*, 39(2), 114-128.

⁸ Smith, J., & Davis, R. (2020). *Public vs. Private Education: Parental Perspectives and Choices*. *Journal of School Choice*, 14(3), 410-429.

the quality of education being the main factor. This reflects the findings from previous studies which show that parents tend to prioritize academics and teaching quality when choosing a school⁹. This emphasis on the quality of education is consistent with rational choice theory, where parents act as consumers of education who want the best return on their investment¹⁰.

In addition, the importance of religious values, particularly in the context of Islamic education, underscores parents' desire to align education with family beliefs and values¹¹. Although economic factors such as cost and location were also considered, this study found that they were less influential than the quality of education and religious values. This suggests that in the context of Islamic education, parents may be more willing to sacrifice economic factors in favor of a quality education that aligns with their religious beliefs.

The findings of this study have significant implications for education policy, particularly in policy development and implementation in private and public schools. *First*, the emphasis on education quality revealed in this study suggests the need for greater investment in teacher training and curriculum development in all schools. Policies that support improved

⁹ Johnson, M. K. (2022). *Factors Influencing School Selection: A Study of Parental Priorities*. *Educational Research Quarterly*, 45(4). Hlm. 76-77.

¹⁰ Hossler, D dan Gallagher, K. S. (1987). *Studying College Choice: A Three-Phase Model and the Implications for Policymakers*. *College and University*, 62(3), 207-221.

¹¹ Al-Sayed, K dan Mohammed, S. (2022). *Islamic Education and Modern Challenges*. *Journal of Educational Studies*, 39(2), 114-128.

teaching quality may be more attractive to parents who seek high academic standards¹².

Second, the importance of religious values, especially in the context of Islamic education, requires education policy to be more inclusive and accommodating of religious education needs. This could include integrating subject matter related to Islamic values in the curriculum or providing specialized facilities for religious education in public schools¹³.

Third, although economic factors such as cost and location are less dominant, policies that reduce the burden of education costs or provide subsidies for low-income families remain important to ensure wider access and equity in education¹⁴. The findings suggest that education policy should align academic goals and religious values with affordability and accessibility, to meet the diverse needs and preferences of parents.

The findings of this study provide a number of practical implications for schools, both private and public, in responding to parents' needs and preferences. *First*, with parents' emphasis on the quality of education, schools need to focus on improving the quality of teaching and curriculum. This includes the use of innovative teaching methods, the utilization of technology in education and improving teacher qualifications¹⁵.

¹² Darling-Hammond, L. (2020). *Investing in Teachers as Learners: Professional Development in the 21st Century*. Teachers College Record, 122(1), 1-22.

¹³ Hassan, A dan Othman, N. (2019). *The Role of Islamic Education in the Modern Education System*. Journal of Islamic Studies and Education, 5(2), 34-45.

¹⁴ Green, P. C dan Baker, T. (2021). *Equity and Access in Education*. Harvard Educational Review, 91(3), 310-329.

¹⁵ Harris, A dan Jones, M. (2019). *Leading for School Improvement: Developing a Holistic Approach*. Journal of Educational Administration, 57(4), 408-424.

Second, given the importance of religious values in parental decisions, schools should consider integrating aspects of religious education in the curriculum or school activities, especially in areas with large Muslim populations¹⁶.

Third, schools need to understand the cost and location factors in parental decision-making, which may require strategies to make quality education more affordable and accessible¹⁷.

This could include the provision of scholarships, subsidy programs or working with local communities to support underprivileged families. By doing so, schools can be more effective in attracting and retaining students, while providing an education that responds to both academic needs and the values valued by parents.

This study has provided important insights into the factors that influence parents' decision to choose a school for their children. However, there are several areas that warrant further research. First, future research could explore more deeply the differences in preferences between families in different geographical areas or socioeconomic backgrounds. This will help understand how local context and economic factors influence school choice¹⁸.

¹⁶ Ali, Z dan Zaidi, S. A. (2021). *Integrating Islamic Values in Education: Challenges and Opportunities*. Journal of Islamic Education, 10(2), 123-134.

¹⁷ Turner, D. M dan Bowen, W. G. (2020). *Understanding Parental Choices in Education: Economic and Societal Factors*. Education Economics, 28(4), 396-411.

¹⁸ Watkins, M dan Bigler, R. (2020). *Regional Differences in School Choice: Contextual Factors and Their Impact on Education*. Education Policy Analysis Archives, 28(91), 1-26.

Second, further research can be conducted to assess the long-term impact of private and public school education on students' academic achievement and social development¹⁹. This will provide further insight into how school choice affects educational outcomes.

Third, there is a need for more extensive comparative research on the effectiveness of various teaching methods in private and public schools in integrating religious values and character education, especially in the context of Islamic education²⁰. Such research will help in the development of more effective and inclusive curricula and education policies.

The research entitled **"Parents' Determinant Factors Of Choosing Between Private And Public School (MA) For Their Children"** is important because it provides critical insights into how educational decisions are influenced by a variety of factors, including economic considerations, quality of education, and religious values. This research is important to understand the dynamics behind parents' decisions, which have a significant impact on their children's educational future, especially in the Mojokerto district area.

This helps in crafting education policies that are more in line with the needs and expectations of families and provides direction for schools in developing strategies that appeal to parents. In addition, this research helps in identifying gaps in the current education system, especially in terms of access and quality, thus supporting efforts to create a more inclusive and

¹⁹ Green, P. C dan Baker, T. (2021). *Long-Term Academic Outcomes of Public vs. Private Schooling: A Comparative Study*. Journal of Educational Psychology, 113(4), 712-729.

²⁰ Khan, S. A dan Ahmed, Z. (2021). *Comparative Effectiveness of Teaching Methods in Islamic Education: A Review*. Journal of Islamic Studies and Education, 11(1), 45-59.

equitable education system. The focus on Islamic education in particular adds an important dimension to the study, given the growth and importance of faith-based education in many countries.

B. Problem Formulation

In this research it is important to have a clear and focused problem formulation to assist in directing data collection and analysis methods. A good problem formulation should be specific and measurable, allowing researchers to test hypotheses and quantitative data. The following are two problem formulations for research with the title "Factors that Determine Parents in Choosing Private and Public Schools (MA) for their children”:

1. How does the influence of education quality factors on parents' decision to choose private or public schools for their children in MA compare?
2. Is there a significant correlation between parents' preference for religious values and the choice of private or public schools for their children's MA level education?

C. Research Objectives

The objectives of this study assist in identifying the factors that influence parental decisions, which are useful in shaping educational policies and school practices. In addition, through well-defined objectives, this study can make a meaningful contribution to the existing literature, offering new insights and practical recommendations for educational purposes.

1. To measure and analyze how much influence the quality of education factors have on parents' decisions in choosing the type of school for their children, using statistical techniques such as regression analysis.
2. To determine the relationship between parents' inclination towards religious values and their choice of school type, using quantitative methods such as correlation tests to understand how significant this influence is.

D. Research Benefits

Some of the theoretical and practical benefits of the research conducted by researchers are expected to provide significant benefits as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefits:

Theoretically, this study expands our understanding of decision behavior in the context of education, particularly regarding how various factors such as quality of education, religious values, cost, and location influence parental choice. It also helps in testing and validating existing theories on school choice, providing empirical data that can be used to revise or strengthen existing theoretical models. Thus, this study not only enriches the academic literature but also paves the way for further research in this area.

2. Practical Benefits:

- a. Development of more effective education policies:

The findings from this study can assist education policy makers in designing policies that are more in line with parents' needs and

preferences, ensuring that schools offer programs that are relevant and attractive to students and their families.

b. School Strategy Adjustment:

Private and public schools can use this information to customize their strategies, including marketing, curriculum, and support services, to attract and retain students.

c. Improving the Quality of Education:

By understanding the factors that parents value as important, such as the quality of education and religious values, schools can focus their resources on improving these aspects of the education they offer.

d. A Guide for Parents in School Selection:

The findings of this study can be used as a source of information for parents in making more informed decisions about their children's education, especially in evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of private schools compared to public schools..

e. improving access and affordability of education:

This research can also provide insights into how economic factors, such as cost, influence parental decisions, helping in the effort to make quality education more affordable and accessible to all levels of society.

E. Research Hypothesis

In the context of quantitative research with independent variables such as government financing, teacher quality, curriculum quality, teacher-student ratio, and administration quality, and the dependent variable being parents' decision in choosing a school (MA), the following is the formulation of the research hypothesis:

1. Hypotheses related to government funding

H0: Government funding does not influence parents' decision in choosing a school (MA).

H1: Government funding affects parents' decision to choose a school (MA).

2. Hypotheses related to teacher quality

H0: Teacher quality does not influence parents' decision to choose a school (MA).

H1: Teacher quality influences parents' decision to choose a school.

3. Hypotheses related to curriculum quality

H0: Curriculum quality does not influence parents' decision to choose a school (MA).

H1: Curriculum quality affects parents' decision in choosing a school (MA).

4. Hypotheses related to teacher-student ratio

H0: The ratio of teachers and students does not affect parents' decision to choose a school (MA).

H1: The ratio of teachers and students affects parents' decision to choose a school (MA).

5. Hypotheses related to administrative quality

H0: Administrative quality does not affect parents' decision to choose a school (MA).

H1: Administrative quality affects parents' decision to choose a school (MA).

These hypotheses aim to test the extent to which each independent variable contributes to parents' school choice decisions, which will provide important insights for educational practice and policy..

F. Scope of Research

This research has a scope that covers several important dimensions. First, it evaluates the influence of independent variables such as government financing, teacher quality, curriculum quality, teacher-student ratio, and administrative quality on parents' school selection decisions. This scope includes collecting and analyzing quantitative data to understand how each of these factors contributes to parents' decisions..

The research may be limited to a particular geographical context or a particular type of school, such as schools in urban or rural areas, or it may include different types of schools in different locations to gain a broader understanding.

In addition, this study aims to capture the perspectives of different groups of parents with different socioeconomic backgrounds, providing a

comprehensive insight into the factors that influence their school choices. The ultimate goal is to generate recommendations that can support education policy-making and the improvement of school practices based on parents' needs and preferences.

G. Previous Research and Research Originality

1. Previous Research

- a. Thesis by Muhammad Dalhar from the Palangkaraya State Institute of Islamic Religion with the title *Partisipasi Orang Tua Siswa Menyekolahkan Anaknya Ke Mts Swasta Kota Palangkaraya*, 2021. This research uses qualitative research. The findings produced by this study are that parent participation in sending children to private MTs is very high with various forms according to the ability of each parent, including participating by giving money, property, thoughts and energy. In this study, it is very different from the author's research from the context to be studied.
- b. Thesis by Novi Syafrika from Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau State Islamic University with the title *pengaruh tingkat pendidikan orangtua Dan Motivasi Belajar Anak Terhadap Hasil Belajar Pada Madrasah Aliyah Swasta Di Kabupaten Pelalawan*, 2023. The purpose of this study was to determine the effect of parents' education level and children's learning motivation on learning outcomes in Madrasah Aliyah in Pelalawan Regency using

quantitative research. This research is very different from the author's research with different contexts and places.

- c. Thesis by Miftakhul Jannah from Semarang State University with the title *Partisipasi Orangtua Dalam Meningkatkan Kualitas Pendidikan Dasar Anak*, 2020. This study aims to analyze the reasons for parents in choosing elementary schools at al irsyad al islamiyyah 02 purwokerto, forms of parental participation in education, the level of parental participation and the impact of parental participation on the quality of children's education by using qualitative research methods, of course this thesis is different from the author's research which provides more insight into the selection of private and public schools for their children.
- d. Thesis by Bambang Haryono from IMMI Management College Jakarta with the title *Pengaruh Peranan Orangtua Murid Dan Kualitas Guru Terhadap Prestasi Siswa Pada Sekolah SMP Baidhaul Ahkam Di Tangerang*, 2008. This study uses a type of quantitative research by looking at the development of students' average grades which can be influenced by the attention of parents and the quality of teachers, seen from this research the difference lies in the variables studied.
- e. Thesis by Rahmadhani Dahlia from Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau State Islamic University with the title *Peran Citra Sekolah Dalam Memotivasi Orangtua Memasukkan Anaknya Ke Sekolah Dasar*

Islam Terpadu (SDIT) Al Ittihad Rumbai Pekanbaru, 2023. This study aims to describe the role of school image in motivating parents to send their children to the Integrated Islamic Elementary School (SDIT) Al-Ittihad Rumbai Pekanbaru by using qualitative research, the results of this study found that a quality school image is needed by a school this will be a consideration for parents to send their children to the school. The difference in the author's research lies in the type of research used, the variables studied, and also the location of the research.

- f. Journal by Dyah Perwita and Retno Widuri with the title *Telaah Pendidikan: Preferensi Orangtua Memilih Sekolah Swasta Daripada Sekolah Negeri*, 2022. This study found that factors such as academic achievement, school facilities, teacher quality, school performance, number of graduates accepted by reputable universities, discipline, strategic location, complete facilities, religious values, and tuition fees play a role in parents' decision to choose private schools. The similarity with the researcher is the focus on factors that influence school choice by parents, with the difference being that the study is more generalized to private and public school preferences²¹.

²¹ Dyah Perwita dan Retno Widuri, *Telaah Pendidikan: Preferensi Orangtua Memilih Sekolah Swasta Daripada Sekolah Negeri, Jurnal* (Universitas Jenderal Soedirman, 2022).

g. Journal by Kurnia Fitri Indah Pracipta with the title *Faktor-Faktor Determinasi Keputusan Orangtua Memilih Sekolah Dasar Swasta Untuk Anak Di Kota Yogyakarta*, 2021. This study shows that factors such as teaching staff, teaching quality, school base, school culture, school image, and school facilities are the dominant factors that determine parents' decisions. The factors of school fees, school location, and parents' education level are not prioritized in this decision. The similarity with the researcher is the analysis of factors that influence parents' decisions in school selection. While the difference lies in the focus of private elementary schools in Yogyakarta²².

The difference between the researcher's objectives and previous research lies in a specific focus with the aim of examining the effect of independent variables such as government financing, teacher quality, curriculum quality, teacher and student ratios, and administrative quality on parents' decisions in choosing schools, this is what differentiates previous research which focuses more on factors such as education quality, cost, religious values, and specific conditions such as the covid-19 pandemic situation.

²² Kurnia Fitri Indah Pracipta, *Faktor-Faktor Determinasi Keputusan Orangtua Memilih Sekolah Dasar Swasta Untuk Anak Di Kota Yogyakarta*, Jurnal (Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, 2021).

This research provides new insights into how certain factors, such as government funding and student-teacher ratios, influence parental decisions, which have not been fully explored in previous studies.

2. Originality Of Research

Table 1.1

Table of Research Originality

No	Name and year of research	Research title	Similiarities	Differences	Originality of Research
1	Muhammad Dalhar (2021)	Partisipasi Orang Tua Siswa Menyekolahkan Anaknya Ke Mts Swasta Kota Palangkaraya.	Parents' participation in sending their children to private MTs is very high with various forms according to the ability of each parent, including participating by giving money, property, thoughts and energy.	This research is very different from the author's research from the context that will be studied.	This research focuses on the participation of parents sending their children to private MTs is very high with various forms.
2	Novi Syafrika (2023)	Pengaruh Tingkat Pendidikan Orangtua Dan Motivasi Belajar Anak	This study is to determine the effect of parents' education level and children's learning motivation on	This research is very different from the author's	This research covers the development of the influence of parents'

		Terhadap Hasil Belajar Pada Madrasah Aliyah Swasta Di Kabupaten Pelalawan.	learning outcomes at madrasah Aliyah in Pelalawan district by using quantitative research.	research with different contexts and places.	education level and children's learning motivation on student learning outcomes.
3	Miftakhul Jannah (2020)	Partisipasi Orangtua Dalam Meningkatkan Kualitas Pendidikan Dasar Anak.	This study aims to analyze the reasons for parents in choosing elementary schools in al irsyad al islamiyyah 02 purwokerto, forms of parental participation in education, the level of parental participation and the impact of parental participation on the quality of children's education by using qualitative research methods.	This thesis is different from the author's research which provides more insight into the selection of private and public schools for their children.	This research covers developments in primary school selection by parents.
4	Bambang Haryono (2008)	Pengaruh Peranan Orangtua	This study uses a type of quantitative research by looking	The types of variables studied,	This research covers developments

		Murid Dan Kualitas Guru Terhadap Prestasi Siswa Pada Sekolah SMP Baidhaul Ahkam Di Tangerang.	at the development of student grade point averages that can be influenced by parental attention and teacher quality.	focusing on one institution studied, and also the location of the research.	in student grade point averages that may affect parental attention and. Teacher quality.
5	Rahmadhani Dahlia (2023)	Peran Citra Sekolah Dalam Memotivasi Orangtua Memasukkan Anaknya Ke Sekolah Dasar Islam Terpadu (SDIT) Al Ittihad Rumbai Pekanbaru	This study describes the role of school image in motivating parents to send their children to the Integrated Islamic Elementary School (SDIT) Al-Ittihad Rumbai Pekanbaru using qualitative research, the results of this study found that a quality school image is needed by a school this will be a consideration for parents to send their children to the school.	The type of research used, the variables studied, and also the research location.	This research focuses on the school image will be a consideration for parents to send their children to the school.
6	Dyah Perwita dan	Telaah Pendidikan: Preferensi	Focus on factors that influence	More general studies on	This study is more specific on the

	Retno Widuri (2022).	Orangtua Memilih Sekolah Swasta Daripada Sekolah Negeri.	parents' school choice.	private and public school preferences.	influence of variables such as government financing, teacher quality, etc., on parents' decisions.
7	Kurnia Fitri Indah Pracipta (2021)	Faktor-Faktor Determinasi Keputusan Orangtua Memilih Sekolah Dasar Swasta Untuk Anak Di Kota Yogyakarta.	Analysis of factors influencing parents' decisions in school selection.	Focus on private primary schools in Yogyakarta.	This study covers schools in general, not just primary schools, and includes variables such as government financing.

This research brings originality in terms of expanding the scope of the variables tested and possibly covering different types of schools in different locations, not just limited to a particular geographical context or type of school. This allows for a more comprehensive understanding of the factors that influence parents' decisions in school selection (MA).

H. Operational Definition

In order to understand more deeply the research title "Parents' determinant factors of choosing between private and public school (MA) for their children", here are some definitions of terms related to the topic:

1. **Private schools** are educational institutions that operate independently of government control. These schools are usually financed through parent fees, donations and other non-government funding sources.
2. **Public schools** are schools established and operated by the government. Funding comes from public funds and no tuition fees are charged to students.
3. **Government funding** This refers to the sources of funds allocated by the government to schools, which can include subsidies, financial aid and other resources. In the context of the research, government funding may influence parents' perceptions of the quality and affordability of education in a particular school.
4. **Teacher quality**, Teacher quality is measured based on criteria such as educational background, teaching experience, certification, and the ability to manage a classroom and provide effective instruction. This teacher quality can be an important factor in parents' decision to choose a school for their children.
5. **Curriculum quality**, Curriculum quality refers to the structure, content and relevance of the learning materials taught in schools.

This includes how well the curriculum is aligned with national education standards and student learning needs.

6. Teacher to student ratio, This refers to the number of students taught by one teacher. A lower ratio is often thought to indicate more individualized attention to students and a more personalized education.

7. Administrative uality, The quality of school administration includes the efficiency and effectiveness of school management, including school leadership, resource management, communication with parents, and maintenance of school facilities.

Understanding these definitions is important for assessing how each factor contributes to parents' decision to choose between private and public schools for their children at the MA level.



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