

## THE URGENCY OF IMPLEMENTING MORAL VALUES FOR THE MILLENNIAL GENERATION IN THE ERA OF MODERNIZATION

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### Abstract

*Moral decline is a serious challenge that pervades various levels of society, especially in Indonesia, with data showing a significant prevalence among adolescents. Awareness of moral values is crucial as it determines how individuals behave. Moral values education plays a central role in human life, opening windows to goodness, noble values, and usefulness. This study aims to explore the urgency of moral values education in overcoming moral decline. Efforts to overcome moral decline require a holistic strategy, one of which is to instill character education from an early age in the family, school and community environment. This research uses a qualitative approach with a literature study method, exploring information from journal articles, books, websites, and other relevant sources. The results showed that moral value education plays a vital role in facing the challenges of moral decline for the millennial generation, namely: 1) Islamic Religious Education Strategy, 2) Revitalization of Character Education, 3) Contribution of Moral Education to Civil Society. Thus, the results of this study provide further understanding of the urgency of moral value education in facing moral decline, especially through the approach of moral value education, revitalization of character education, and contribution to the formation of civil society. Moral value education is an important key in forming a generation that is moral and contributes positively to society.*

**Keywords:** Application of Moral Values, Millennial Generation.

### مستخلص البحث

يمثل الانحدار الأخلاقي تحدياً خطيراً يسود مختلف مستويات المجتمع، لا سيما في إندونيسيا، حيث تظهر البيانات انتشاراً كبيراً بين المراهقين. إن الوعي بالقيم الأخلاقية أمر بالغ الأهمية لأنه يحدد سلوك الأفراد. وتلعب التربية على القيم الأخلاقية دوراً محورياً في حياة الإنسان، وتفتح له نوافذ على الخير والقيم النبيلة والمفيدة. هدف هذا البحث إلى استكشاف مدى أهمية التربية على القيم الأخلاقية في التغلب على التدهور الأخلاقي. وتتطلب الجهود المبذولة للتغلب على الانحدار الأخلاقي استراتيجية شاملة، من بينها غرس التربية على القيم الأخلاقية منذ نعومة أظفارنا في البيئة الأسرية والمدرسية والمجتمعية. واستخدم هذا البحث منهجاً كفيئاً باستخدام أسلوب دراسة الأدبيات واستكشاف المعلومات من المقالات الصحفية والكتب والمواقع الإلكترونية وغيرها من المصادر ذات الصلة. وقد أظهرت النتائج أن التربية القيمية الأخلاقية تلعب دوراً حيوياً في مواجهة تحديات الانحدار الأخلاقي لجيل الألفية، وهي (1) استراتيجية التربية الدينية الإسلامية، (2) تنشيط تربية القيم الأخلاقية، (3) مساهمة التربية الأخلاقية في المجتمع المدني. وبالتالي، فإن نتائج هذا البحث تقدم مزيداً من الفهم لضرورة التربية القيمية الأخلاقية في مواجهة التدهور الأخلاقي، خاصة من



خلال منهج التربية القيمية الأخلاقية، وتنشيط تربية الشخصية، والمساهمة في تكوين المجتمع المدني. وتعد التربية القيمية الأخلاقية مفتاحاً مهماً في تكوين جيل أخلاقي يسهم بشكل إيجابي في المجتمع.  
الكلمات المفتاحية: تطبيق القيم الأخلاقية وجيل الألفية.

## INTRODUCTION

Morality is a form of agreement in society regarding what is considered appropriate and inappropriate, forming a system of moral law that exists independently. Every society has its own unique system of morality and ethics. In many cases, a community sanctions moral transgressions more severely than formal institutions. The harshest punishments for those who violate morality often involve prolonged psychological burdens, social ostracism, and restrictions from what is considered “normal” life.

Morality values are an important element that must be owned by every individual because these values form the basis of their behavior. This understanding of morality values begins to be instilled early, especially in the family environment. Parents, as the first madrasah and role models for children at home, have a crucial role in demonstrating and applying moral values. In many cases, children will imitate their parents’ behavior, and therefore, it is important for parents to be a good example in applying these moral values.

Morality is not only a social rule, but also reflects the integrity and character of individuals. Therefore, the formation of morality in society is not only the responsibility of formal institutions, but also the responsibility of every individual and family. By having strong moral values, individuals are expected to enrich social life and contribute positively to society as a whole.<sup>1</sup>

With the rapid development of information and communication technology, there is a phenomenon of cybercrime that has a significant impact on the millennial generation, with a particular impact on moral decline referred to as moral decline. The rapid development of technology has opened the door to various forms of cybercrime, which include aspects such as online fraud, data hacking, and dissemination of harmful content.

Millennials, who have grown up in an era where technology is integrated into everyday life, are vulnerable to such risks. Cybercrime not only poses challenges in terms of security and privacy, but can also trigger moral decline among millennials. This phenomenon can be reflected in unethical online behavior, dissemination of false or harmful information, and unauthorized activities that harm individuals and society.

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<sup>1</sup> Muhammad Ahsan Hidayat, et al, Urgensi Pendidikan Agama Islam Dalam Menghadapi Degradasi Moral, *Academica Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies*, Vol. 7 No. 1, January - June 2023, p. 24

Therefore, the moral decline among millennials triggered by cybercrime emphasizes the urgency of understanding the impact of technology on moral values. Raising awareness about digital ethics, cybersecurity, and responsibility in interacting online is key in protecting the moral integrity of millennials in this ever-evolving technological era.<sup>2</sup>

In the current era, moral decline has become a troubling problem that pervades almost all levels of society, no matter the level of education possessed. The factors that trigger moral decline at the individual level include a number of aspects that are woven into the social structure.

First of all, the lack of inculcation of religious values in every individual in society is one of the roots of the problem. Low stability in various aspects, such as economic, social and political, also contributes to moral instability in individuals. Moral education that does not run optimally both in the family environment and in society is a major obstacle.

Unharmonious household conditions, the introduction of illegal drugs, and the abundance of content such as writings, pictures, broadcasts, and art that pay little attention to moral demands are also triggers for moral decline. The absence of guidance that directs the positive use of leisure time also plays a role in exacerbating this problem.

In addition, the lack of guidance and counseling centers especially for children and adolescents leads to a void in moral development. Therefore, serious efforts need to be made in educating the public, especially the younger generation, about the importance of moral, religious and ethical values in maintaining the integrity and harmony of society.<sup>3</sup>

## METHOD

This research is descriptive qualitative research that aims to describe, explain, and explain in more detail the problems to be studied.<sup>4</sup> The method used is a literature review in which using from written sources both books, journals, websites, and relevant news as a source of study. The method used in this research is library research or literature study research. From the results of the literature study search, researchers summarize and take the essence of the discussion which is the topic of research so that concepts related to differentiated learning strategies can be drawn. The data analysis technique used takes from the data analysis technique.<sup>5</sup> Among them are data collection related to topics similar to this article, the data collected is then reduced to produce data

<sup>2</sup> Nurbaiti Ma'rufah, et al, Degradasi Moral Sebagai Dampak Kejahatan Siber Pada Generasi Millennial Di Indonesia, NUSANTARA: Jurnal Ilmu Pengetahuan Sosial, 7 (1) (2020): 191-201, p. 192.

<sup>3</sup> Muhammad Ahsan Hidayat, et al, Urgensi Pendidikan Agama Islam Dalam Menghadapi Degradasi Moral ..., p. 25.

<sup>4</sup> Bakri, S. Pendekatan-Pendekatan Dalam Islamic Studies. Dinika: Journal of Islamic Studies, 12 (01), (2014). 7-16.

<sup>5</sup> Sugiyono. Metodologi Penelitian. Alfabeta. (2015).

that is in line with the research questions, then the data is presented (display data), then the data that has been presented can be drawn conclusions.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Inform a number of important data (original) fields obtained from questionnaires, surveys, documents, interviews, observations, and other data collection techniques. It can be completed with a table or graphic to clarify the result.

The application of moral values for the millennial generation has an important significance in shaping individuals who are responsible, ethical, and contribute positively to society. Moral values that can be applied to the millennial generation include a number of aspects that support the formation of responsible, ethical, and positively contributing characters. Here are some relevant moral values to be applied:<sup>6</sup>

1. **Integrity:** Encouraging millennials to act honestly and consistently on the values and principles they believe in.
2. **Empathy:** Understanding and feeling the feelings of others, and being concerned about the needs and suffering of others.
3. **Fairness:** Treating all people fairly and equally, regardless of background, gender, race or religion.
4. **Responsibility:** Encourage responsibility for actions and decisions, both in personal and social contexts.
5. **Simplicity:** Appreciating the value of a simple life, valuing meaning and relationships more than materialism and over-consumption.
6. **Openness:** Being open to new ideas, views and experiences. Accept diversity and respect different opinions.
7. **Loyalty:** Maintaining commitment and loyalty to values, relationships and obligations.
8. **Courage:** Encourage millennials to have the courage to speak and act in accordance with moral values, even in difficult situations.
9. **Discipline:** Instill the value of discipline in daily life, whether in work, study, or social relationships.
10. **Optimism:** Building an optimistic and positive attitude in the face of challenges, and seeing opportunities for growth and improvement.

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<sup>6</sup> Samhi Muawan Djamal, Penerapan Nilai-nilai Ajaran Islam dalam Kehidupan Masyarakat di Desa Garuntungan Kec. Kindang Kab. Bulukumba, Jurnal Adabiyah. Vol. 17 Number 2/2017, p. 174.

11. **Environmental Stewardship:** Maintain environmental sustainability and understand responsibility towards the earth and nature.
12. **Moral Education:** Promote an appreciation of moral education as an important foundation for personal development and character building.
13. **Life Balance:** Emphasizes the importance of achieving balance between personal, professional, and social life.
14. **Technology Awareness:** Understand digital etiquette and maintain positive behavior in the use of technology and social media.

The application of these moral values is expected to guide millennials in forming a positive identity, maintaining personal integrity, and contributing positively to society and the world as a whole

In addition, the millennial generation can be given moral training involving a comprehensive perspective. *First*, moral education should embrace the whole spectrum of value-related issues, from the formation of individual qualities to reflection on morality as a whole. *Second*, the strategies applied in moral training need to cover a broad dimension. This includes the cultivation of values, the presence of role models, and the preparation of children to achieve independence through reliable moral guidance and the development of other basic abilities. At a young age, the teaching of traditional qualities from authoritative figures such as parents, teachers and society is indispensable. They also need to witness positive examples from adults in terms of honesty and happiness in daily life. More so, they should be encouraged to have an independent mind and develop the ability to manage their own lives.

*Third*, moral education should occur across all domains of instruction, including in the classroom, extracurricular activities, guidance and counseling, in entertainment activities, and in all aspects of daily life. This is reflected in student activities such as group work, use of teaching materials, and essay writing on virtues. The exposure of important values and moral dilemmas, the depiction of behavioral examples such as not smoking, not doing evil, not cheating, liberal attitudes, justice, and respect for living beings as God's creation, are all integral parts of this approach.

*Fourth*, moral training must involve life in the public sphere. Parents, educational foundations, police, security forces, and all components of society need to actively participate in the value education process. The consistency of all these groups in delivering value training will have a significant impact on the ethical development of the younger generation.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Kirschenbaum, H. Pentingnya Pendidikan Agama Islam Dan Pendidikan Moral Dalam Membina Karakter Anak Sekolah Dasar, Al-Furqan: Jurnal Agama, Sosial, dan Budaya. Volume 2, No. 5, September 2020, 1995, p. 330.

In the context of a rapidly evolving and changing world, moral education in elementary schools must continue to evolve and adapt to current needs. Hopefully, through this approach, children can grow into individuals with integrity, high values, and realize the importance of taking responsibility as members of the wider community.<sup>8</sup>

### Factors Causing Moral Decline

Factors causing moral decline can be divided into two categories, namely external factors and internal factors. External factors include the family environment, the school environment, the community environment, the influence of foreign cultures, the level of religious education, the mass media, and the lack of efficiency of society's social institutions. Meanwhile, internal factors involve an individual's habits, personality and psychological state.<sup>9</sup>

#### External Factors:

1. **Family Environment:** The family environment is the dominant factor in forming the basis of a child's religious spirit and influencing the development of personality and behavior.
2. **School Environment:** The school plays a role in shaping the child's personality and teaching the values and norms of the society.
3. **Community Environment:** The influence of society, especially from leaders or rulers, can provide direction to a child's education.
4. **Foreign Cultural Influences:** The flow of foreign culture can cause changes in people's lives, especially in terms of westernization.
5. **Low Level of Religious Education:** Low levels of religious education can result in juvenile delinquency and risky behavior.
6. **Mass Media:** Mass media can influence children if it shows inappropriate shows that can be abused.
7. **Lack of Efficiency of Social Institutions:** Social problems such as crime, lack of education, and hunger can be the result of inefficient and ineffective social institutions.

#### Internal Factors:

1. **Habits:** An individual's habits, such as dress, hygiene, and lifestyle, can influence their values.

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<sup>8</sup> Aiena Kamila, Pentingnya Pendidikan Agama Islam Dan Pendidikan Moral Dalam Membina Karakter Anak Sekolah Dasar, Al-Furqan: Jurnal Agama, Sosial, dan Budaya. Volume 2, No. 5, September 2020, p. 328.

<sup>9</sup> Muhammad Ahsan Hidayat, et al, Urgensi Pendidikan Agama Islam Dalam Menghadapi Degradasi Moral ..., 29-30.

2. **Personality:** Personality, influenced by heredity and environment, shapes a child's character.
3. **Psychiatric Conditions:** Psychiatric conditions related to personality are also internal factors that can affect moral decline.

In addition to these factors, there are other causes of moral decline such as promiscuity, the influence of the surrounding environment, lack of parental approach, lack of support and guidance from educational institutions, the influence of western culture, and the influence of mass media and information that provides all human needs.

In addition, the phenomenon of globalization also plays a role in changing the order of people's lives, with the entry of various ideologies, technologies, and cultures that can change people's patterns of life.

Moral decline in the millennial generation can also be caused by a lack of parental attention, the wrong association of students, the influence of gadgets or social media, as well as the misuse of social media which leads to a decline in student morals and manners.

All these factors contribute to the complexity of moral decline among millennials, emphasizing the need for concerted efforts from families, schools, communities, and social institutions to address and prevent this moral decline.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that moral decline can be interpreted as a declination of awareness in behavior that is not in accordance with applicable norms, which can then give birth to a new culture as a result of changes in society. Factors causing moral decline can be divided into two, namely internal factors and external factors.

Internal factors involve aspects such as an individual's habits, personality and psychological state. Meanwhile, external factors include the family environment, school, society, the influence of foreign cultures, the level of religious education, mass media, and the efficiency of social institutions.

Moral values education plays a crucial role in dealing with moral decline. Some relevant approaches include:

1. **Islamic Religious Education:** Islamic Religious Education plays a significant role in shaping individual character, teaching moral values, and providing a strong ethical foundation.

2. **Moral Value Education:** Moral value education has a vital role in revitalizing character education. It provides an understanding and nurturing of moral values in accordance with the needs of society.
3. **Moral Values Education for Civil Society:** Moral values education also contributes to building a civil society. It creates individuals who are responsible, ethical and contribute positively to society.

In response to moral decline, moral values education must be implemented through comprehensive efforts and strategies, both in terms of education and religious systems. Thus, it can be expected that an educated generation with good moral values will become positive pillars in shaping a more ethical and civilized society.

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