

## PARENTS' PERCEPTION OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS AS A QUALITY EDUCATION SOLUTION FOR UPPER MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES IN SUKOHARJO REGENCY

Gita Yuliyanti<sup>1</sup>, Dian Ahimza Nugrahani<sup>2</sup>, Diyas Septyani<sup>3</sup>, Binti Nurul Laeli<sup>4</sup>, Intan Nur Istiqomah<sup>5</sup>, Az Zahra Anindhita<sup>6</sup>, Nurhadi<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1,2,,3,4,5,6</sup> Mahasiswa, Universitas sebelas Maret, Surakarta, Indonesia

<sup>7</sup> Dosen, Universitas sebelas Maret, Surakarta, Indonesia

<sup>1</sup>[gita\\_yuliyanti30@student.uns.ac.id](mailto:gita_yuliyanti30@student.uns.ac.id), <sup>2</sup>[dianahimza@student.uns.ac.id](mailto:dianahimza@student.uns.ac.id),

<sup>3</sup>[diyasseptyani@student.uns.ac.id](mailto:diyasseptyani@student.uns.ac.id), <sup>4</sup>[bintinurullaeli@student.uns.ac.id](mailto:bintinurullaeli@student.uns.ac.id),

<sup>5</sup>[intanni@student.uns.ac.id](mailto:intanni@student.uns.ac.id), <sup>6</sup>[azzahraanindhita97@student.uns.ac.id](mailto:azzahraanindhita97@student.uns.ac.id),

<sup>7</sup>[nurhadi@staff.uns.ac.id](mailto:nurhadi@staff.uns.ac.id)

### Abstract

*Currently, education is easily accessible to all levels of society, especially the upper middle class. However, many parents tend to choose private schools over public schools to send their children to school. This is influenced by factors such as facilities and the quality of school education. This study aims to identify and analyze the factors that influence parents' preferences in choosing private elementary schools. This type of research is qualitative research. The research sample was selected by purposive sampling, namely by determining certain criteria. Data were collected through observation, interviews, and documentation. The results of the study showed that parents prefer private schools and are not burdened with spending high costs because they are comparable to what their children get at school. It can be concluded that factors such as facilities, quality of school education, character formation, and instilling religious values influence parents' decisions in choosing schools for their children. The benefits of this study are to provide an overview to the general public, especially parents, that private schools can be a superior choice in terms of quality of education, facilities provided, and religious-based programs, which can help them make the right decisions for their children's education.*

**Keywords:** Education, Private Schools, Quality

### Abstrak

*Saat ini pendidikan mudah diakses oleh seluruh lapisan masyarakat, terutama kalangan menengah atas. Namun, banyak dari para orang tua yang cenderung memilih sekolah swasta dibanding sekolah negeri untuk menyekolahkan anak-anak mereka. Hal ini dipengaruhi oleh faktor fasilitas dan kualitas pendidikan sekolah. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi dan menganalisis faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi preferensi orang tua dalam memilih sekolah dasar swasta. Jenis penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif. Sampel penelitian dipilih secara purposive sampling, yaitu dengan menentukan kriteria-kriteria tertentu. Data dikumpulkan melalui observasi, wawancara, dan dokumentasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa para orang tua lebih memilih sekolah swasta dan tidak terbebani untuk mengeluarkan biaya yang tinggi karena sebanding dengan yang didapatkan anak di sekolah. Dapat disimpulkan bahwa, faktor fasilitas, kualitas pendidikan sekolah, pembentukan karakter, dan penanaman nilai-nilai agama mempengaruhi keputusan orang tua dalam memilih sekolah bagi anaknya. Manfaat penelitian ini adalah untuk memberikan gambaran kepada masyarakat umum, khususnya para orang tua bahwa sekolah swasta dapat menjadi pilihan yang lebih unggul dalam hal kualitas pendidikan, fasilitas yang disediakan, serta program berbasis agama, yang dapat membantu mereka dalam mengambil keputusan yang tepat bagi pendidikan anak-anak mereka.*

**Kata kunci:** Pendidikan, Sekolah Swasta, Kualitas



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## INTRODUCTION

According to Law No. Article 20 of 2003 concerning Education, education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning environment where students can actively develop their potential. The goal is to equip students with mental strength, self-discipline, character, intelligence, good morals, and skills needed for themselves and society. Education plays an important role in shaping the character and intellectual abilities of the younger generation. The curriculum that is set must be competency-based as an improvement on the previous curriculum. The curriculum in education plays a very significant role in determining the progress of education in a country, from conceptual aspects to implementation or practice in the field.<sup>1</sup> The curriculum plays a crucial role in education in Indonesia. The curriculum must be designed comprehensively and updated to be relevant to the times. In addition to subjects, the curriculum includes moral values, social skills, critical thinking, and collaboration skills. Good education helps students develop academic potential and character.

To achieve quality education, there are important components that must be available in a learning process., namely schools. Free state-based schools have their own appeal because they are funded by the state budget, while private schools try to improve various things, such as the curriculum, increase sufficient funds to meet the facilities needed in schools, and also improve student development.<sup>2</sup> Private schools are educational institutions managed by non-governmental organizations where policies related to teaching methods, educational policies and curriculum are determined by the school management. Private schools usually cost more because their funding comes purely from student tuition fees and donors, so they have the potential to offer superior facilities compared to public schools, depending on the amount of funds available.

It is common knowledge that the facilities in private schools are better and more complete than those in public schools. These better facilities can be found at all levels of education, from kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school to high school. Facilities are everything that can make it easier for someone to get satisfaction, facilitate business or activities. In the scope of education, facilities are important because they include the means and infrastructure used to support the learning process in schools by teachers so as to help achieve educational goals.<sup>3</sup> Referring to

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<sup>1</sup> A. Dhomiri et al., "Konsep Dasar dan Peranan serta Fungsi Kurikulum dalam Pendidikan," *Khatulistiwa: Jurnal Pendidikan dan Sosial Humaniora* 3, no. 1 (2023): 118–28, <https://doi.org/10.55606/khatulistiwa.v3i1.972>.

<sup>2</sup> D. Perwita and R. Widuri, "Telaah Pendidikan: Preferensi Orang Tua Memilih Sekolah Swasta daripada Sekolah Negeri," *Equilibrium: Jurnal Ilmiah Ekonomi dan Pembelajarannya* 11, no. 1 (2023): 64–75, <https://doi.org/10.25273/equilibrium>.

<sup>3</sup> L.I. Nurlaya, "Pengaruh Manajemen Pembiayaan Pendidikan dan Fasilitas Pembelajaran terhadap Mutu Sekolah (Penelitian pada SMK Swasta se-Korwil III Kabupaten Bandung)," *Al-Hasanah: Jurnal Pendidikan Agama Islam* 5, no. 2 (2020): 1–8, <https://doi.org/10.51729/525>.

the Regulation of the Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology Number 22 of 2023 concerning Standards for Facilities and Infrastructure in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education Level, and Secondary Education Level, facilities include learning materials and tools, and their equipment. While infrastructure includes land, buildings, and space. Therefore, schools that have complete facilities and can be used to support learning will have their own appeal for parents of students.

In the Solo Raya area, especially Sukoharjo Regency, there is a trend of increasing interest in private schools. Many factors drive this trend, including the quality of teaching, adequate facilities, and individual attention from teachers to students. Private schools also often offer a varied curriculum and excellent programs, which can support children's holistic development. According to data from the Central Statistics Agency of Sukoharjo Regency on the number of elementary schools under the Ministry of Education and Culture, there was an increase in the number of private elementary schools (SD) from 32 to 35 schools in 2021 to 2023. In addition, of the 12 sub-districts in Sukoharjo Regency, only 3 sub-districts do not have private elementary schools. Meanwhile, for public elementary schools (SD), there was no increase or decrease in the number of schools that year.

The increase in the number of schools above can indicate that more and more people want to send their children to private schools, especially private elementary schools. This is because private schools have succeeded in building a good image in the community through excellent programs, facilities, moral values, a positive school environment, and the quality of teachers and schools. In addition, there are several factors that cause parents' interest in sending their children to public elementary schools to decrease, namely the lack of religious education, lack of discipline, and inadequate facilities and infrastructure.<sup>4</sup> This has caused private elementary schools to become the main reference for parents in choosing schools for their children.

Choosing the right school greatly supports the development of children's intelligence. Through education, parents have a crucial role in shaping children's personalities and providing knowledge that will guide them into adulthood.<sup>5</sup> Schools not only function as a place of learning, but also as an environment to build children's character and personality. There are many aspects that parents must consider so that children can grow according to the values of Pancasila and the

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<sup>4</sup> N.H. Lista et al., "Faktor Menurunnya Minat Bersekolah di SD Negeri: Analisis Persepsi Orang Tua Memasukkan Anaknya di SDIT dibandingkan SD Negeri," *Dirasatul Ibtidaiyah* 3, no. 1 (2023): 109, <https://doi.org/10.24952/ibtidaiyah.v3i1.6912>.

<sup>5</sup> D. Fitriyana et al., "Faktor-Faktor yang Mempengaruhi Orang Tua dalam Pengambilan Keputusan Memilih Sekolah Negeri untuk Anak di Kelurahan Bukit Cermin, Kecamatan Tanjungpinang Barat, Kota Tanjungpinang, Kepulauan Riau," *Nautical: Jurnal Ilmiah Multidisiplin* 1, no. 8 (2022): 512–16, <https://doi.org/10.55904/nautical.v1i8.402>.

required competencies.<sup>6</sup> Every parent has different criteria in determining the best education for their child, such as programs, costs, facilities, and other factors.

Although every parent has different preferences and criteria in choosing the best education for their child, it is important to look at the choice holistically. School selection should involve various aspects, such as academic ability, character development, moral values, and competency for the future. By considering these factors, parents can ensure that the education chosen will have a positive, sustainable impact on their child.

Every parent certainly hopes for the best for their children's future through the choice of a school that is trusted to realize their hopes. Their hopes for their child's education are not only in academic achievement, but also in character development and the formation of solid self-confidence, and a good personality.<sup>7</sup> A good personality is formed through the instillation of religious education in children from an early age. Research conducted by Khasanah et al.,<sup>8</sup> conducted in 9 private religious-based elementary schools in Malang City, showed that religious factors have a very high contribution to parents' decisions in choosing private religious-based elementary schools for their children in Malang City. This is known from the percentage that is owned, namely 57% of parents choose private religious-based schools because of religious factors. This factor is related to the formation of children's personality and morals. Parents believe that with greater attention to religious and moral education, children will grow into individuals who have strong religious and moral principles, such as honesty, discipline, empathy, and respect for others will be embedded in children and become the basis for the formation of positive attitudes and behaviors in the future.<sup>9</sup>

Each individual has their own lifestyle and will not be the same between one and another. Lifestyles between communities over time will differ and experience movement, this will change due to the existence of driving factors and certain needs that are different for each individual.<sup>10</sup> The upper middle class has a more luxurious lifestyle than the lower middle class. The middle class is a group of people who are considered quite social and economic. The upper middle class has a fairly

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<sup>6</sup> A.R. Putra and Silfiana, "Motivasi Orang Tua dalam Memilih Sekolah di SDIT Banten Islamic School Kramatwatu Serang Banten," *Miftah: Jurnal Ekonomi dan Bisnis Islam* 1, no. 1 (2023): 19–29, <https://doi.org/10.61231/miftah.v1i1.68>.

<sup>7</sup> N.N. Khasanah et al., "Analisis Faktor Orang Tua Menyekolahkan Anak pada Sekolah Dasar Berbasis Islam di Kota Malang," *Jurnal Pembelajaran, Bimbingan, dan Pengelolaan Pendidikan* 1, no. 6 (2021): 495–502, <https://doi.org/10.17977/um065v1i62021p495-502>.

<sup>8</sup> Khasanah et al., "Analisis Faktor Orang Tua Menyekolahkan Anak pada Sekolah Dasar Berbasis Islam di Kota Malang."

<sup>9</sup> Evi Aeni Rufaedah, "Peranan Pendidikan Agama Dalam Keluarga Terhadap Pembentukan Kepribadian Anak," *Counselia; Jurnal Bimbingan Konseling Pendidikan Islam* 1, no. 1 (2020): 1, <https://doi.org/10.31943/counselia.v1i1.2>.

<sup>10</sup> Y.P. Khairunnisa, "Kebiasaan Gaya Hidup Hedonisme terhadap Perkembangan Kepribadian Anak," *JUBIKOPS: Jurnal Bimbingan Konseling dan Psikologi* 3, no. 1 (2023): 31–44.

high income that can be used to enjoy various luxuries in lifestyle. The upper middle class can choose a quality they want such as clothing, services, education and many more. The upper middle class can access education with better quality because the upper middle class wants and is able to obtain the best quality of education.

Many parents prefer private schools as a place to educate their children, although there are quite a few private schools provide various criteria for prospective students, both in terms of academic and non-academic abilities that must be possessed. This is done by private schools to show the quality they have and to attract prospective students to attend school there. Martono's research shows that private schools in Banyumas Regency make various efforts to compete to get the attention of prospective students, such as conducting promotions by coming to schools and prospective students' homes, utilizing social networks with certain schools or foundations.<sup>11</sup> In addition, private schools also offer prospective students cheap or even free school fees for underprivileged students. The quality of the local curriculum is also one of the important values that parents consider in choosing a school for their children. Other factors such as costs, number of graduates, quality of educators, location of the school, facilities, and religious values applied by the school are also considerations for parents. In addition, the school's academic achievement is also the most dominant factor in choosing a school.<sup>12,13</sup>

In research conducted by Fadillah & Rahim<sup>14</sup> conducted at MI RM Darul Abror, showed that parents chose private schools as a place of education for their children based on several factors, namely the greater proportion of Islamic religious education. This can be seen from the habituation for all students to perform dhuha prayers and continue with tahfidz before starting learning in class and the implementation of hadith memorization as an additional lesson. In addition, there are factors such as the distance of the school which is close to the student's home, relatively affordable education costs, a full-day learning system, and the desire of children who want to attend MI RM Darul Abror. Of these factors, the greater proportion of Islamic religious education is the main factor for parents to choose private schools as a place of education for their children. Parents consider that the quality of education in madrasas is better than the quality of education in public schools, because in madrasas the lessons or religious education are more numerous and superior.

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<sup>11</sup> N. Martono et al., "Strategi Bertahan SMA Swasta Pilihan Kedua Menghadapi Kompetisi dalam Pendidikan," *Jurnal Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan* 5, no. 1 (2020): 1–12, <https://doi.org/10.24832/jpnk.v5i1.1509>.

<sup>12</sup> Perwita and Widuri, "Telaah Pendidikan: Preferensi Orang Tua Memilih Sekolah Swasta daripada Sekolah Negeri."

<sup>13</sup> R.F. Sinaga, "Analisis Faktor Dominan yang Mempengaruhi Pemilihan Sekolah Swasta untuk Tingkat SMA di Kota Medan," *Jurnal Suluh Pendidikan FKIP-UHN* 4, no. 1 (2017): 77–86.

<sup>14</sup> S.M. Fadillah and A. Rahim, "Faktor-Faktor Pendukung Keputusan Orang Tua Menyekolahkan Anak di Madrasah Ibtidaiyah Raudlatul Muttaallimin Darul Abror Bekasi Tahun 2019," *Journal of Educational and Language Research* 1, no. 12 (2022): 2021–46.

Another study conducted by The Last Supper shows that there is an influence between faith education and parental motivation in choosing a school for their children at SD Kristen Banjarsari Surakarta. The main attraction of this private school is the faith education given to students both in class and outside the classroom, theoretically in the form of subjects and in practice, so that indirectly this will build a Christian personality. In addition, through the scope of education and educational programs that teach Christian values, students will develop further both in terms of cognitive and spiritual aspects. With faith education that is continuously given to students, parents are increasingly convinced and are not wrong to send their children to private schools based on Christianity. In previous studies, there was no discussion of parental expectations after sending their children to private schools and how children's character is formed at the school, while this study will discuss both of these things.

Based on the description above, this study aims to determine the role of private schools as a hope for a better life for the upper middle class in Sukoharjo district. The benefit is to provide an understanding to the general public, especially parents, that private schools can be a better choice in terms of quality of education, facilities provided, and religious-based programs that can help them make the right decisions for their children's education.

## RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative method. Qualitative research is research based on the philosophy of postpositivism and is used to study a particular population or sample and is carried out in natural conditions.<sup>15</sup> With qualitative methods, research results will be obtained in the form of in-depth descriptions of behavior, speech, or writing that can be observed by individuals or groups. The research location is in 3 sub-districts in Sukoharjo Regency, namely Grogol District, Sukoharjo District, and Kartasura District. The sampling method used in this study is purposive sampling, which is a sample selection technique in which researchers deliberately select informants based on certain criteria that are in accordance with the research objectives.<sup>16</sup> The informant criteria in this study were parents who were included in the upper middle class, who had income above the UMR of Sukoharjo Regency. The population of the study was parents of students from private elementary schools in Sukoharjo Regency. The informants in this study were 24 parents from SDIT Darul Falah Grogol, SD Tarakanita Grogol, SD Kristen Sukoharjo, SDIT MTA Sukoharjo, SD Kristen Widya Wacana X Kartasura, and SDIT Muhammadiyah Al-Kautsar Kartasura.

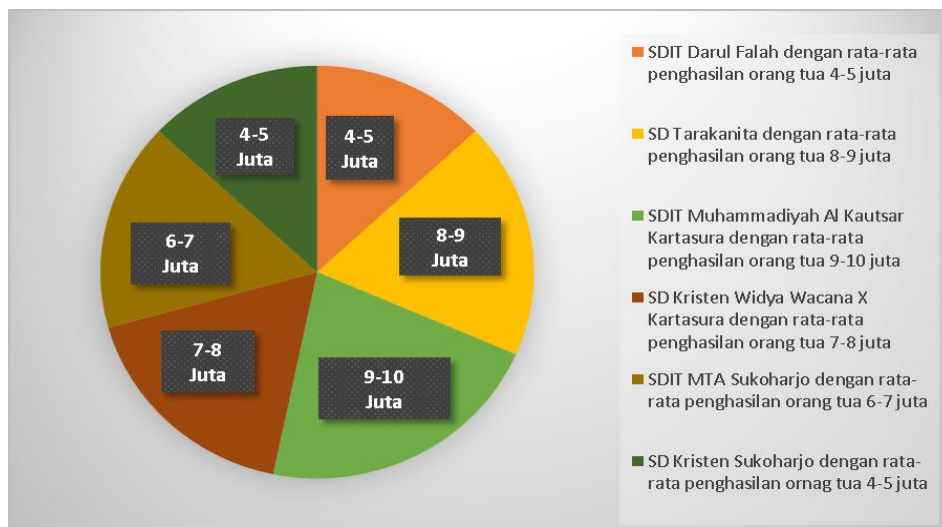
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<sup>15</sup> Sugiyono, *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif, Kualitatif, dan R&D* (Alfabeta, 2013).

<sup>16</sup> I. Lenaini, "Teknik Pengambilan Sampel Purposive dan Snowball Sampling," *Historis: Jurnal Kajian, Penelitian & Pengembangan Pendidikan Sejarah* 6, no. 1 (2021): 33–39, <https://doi.org/10.31764/historis.vXiY.4075>.

Data collection was carried out using observation methods, in-depth interviews and documentation. Observations were carried out by observing activities and facilities in each school and record the results of observations on the observation tool. While interviews were conducted with parents of students in each school. This interview was conducted to find out the superior programs of each private school and to find out the main factors for parents to choose private schools over other schools. Documentation was carried out by taking pictures and videos that could be used as supporting data from the data obtained from previous observations and interviews. After the data was collected, the data was reduced by selecting and simplifying information that was relevant to the research theme, namely data related to the factors that influence parents to choose private schools. Then the data presentation, where the data in this study was presented in the form of descriptions and using logical and systematic language so that it was easy to understand. The last is the stage of drawing conclusions, conclusions were obtained from the analysis carried out in the discussion in a structured form.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



**Figure 1.** Distribution of Parents' Income of Students

Based on data from the results of research that has been conducted at SDIT Darul Falah Grogol, SD Tarakanita Grogol, SD Kristen Sukoharjo, SDIT MTA Sukoharjo, SD Kristen Widya Wacana X Kartasura, and SDIT Muhammadiyah Al-Kautsar Kartasura, it can be stated that 80% of parents of children who attend private schools have a monthly income of more than 5 million so they decide to send their children to private schools which are indeed more complete in terms of facilities and quality of education when compared to public schools. They also put a lot of hope in

their children to be in accordance with the ideal child they desire even though the cost of education is quite high. For them, it is not a problem related to the costs in private schools because they believe that the higher the cost, the better the quality of education. In addition, they see it from an academic perspective and a habituation program, such as the Al-Quran memorization program, murojaah/memorization every morning and also Al-Kitab literacy every morning which differentiates it from public schools.

All private elementary schools used as research sites have adequate facilities to develop the potential of students, both academic and non-academic. With these adequate facilities, it is expected that students can utilize them as well as possible so that they can improve their achievements and quality. The facilities that students get in private schools, such as comfortable classrooms, a safe school environment, clean toilets, and infrastructure that can support and facilitate learning activities, such as the availability of LCDs and projectors.

The complete facilities above greatly influence students' activities and creativity because with these facilities students can be creative in doing anything, which of course can increase the potential or skills that students have.<sup>17</sup> However, there are still many parents who feel that the facilities their children get are not commensurate with the costs they have incurred. In addition, there are parents in several private schools who complain about the limited space for children to move around because the school yard is small. These private schools respond well to complaints and criticisms from parents, the school is always open to parents who want to convey their criticisms. After that, the school will hold a discussion with the committee and parents to find solutions to the complaints, criticisms and suggestions.

Private elementary schools in Sukoharjo district, especially SDIT Darul Falah Grogol, SD Tarakanita Grogol, SD Kristen Sukoharjo, SDIT MTA Sukoharjo, SD Kristen Widya Wacana X Kartasura, and SDIT Muhammadiyah Al-Kautsar Kartasura provide various programs designed to provide a cooperative learning experience for their students. These programs cover academic, religious, and social aspects that support each other in forming a balanced individual. One of the main programs is well-structured religious education, such as Bible literacy every morning, murojaah Al-Quran every morning and a program to memorize the Quran to strengthen the understanding and application of religious values. In addition to religious education, some schools also offer special programs designed to improve the quality of education with creative learning methods that focus on achievement. In this school, students learn in an active and directly involved way, so that they can develop their thinking and collaboration skills. So that during the learning

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<sup>17</sup> S.H. Daulay et al., "Pengaruh Fasilitas Sekolah terhadap Kemampuan dan Motivasi Belajar Siswa," *Edukatif: Jurnal Ilmu Pendidikan* 4, no. 3 (2022): 3731–38, <https://doi.org/10.31004/edukatif.v4i3.2553>.



process, it is more flexible in adding programs that emphasize certain skills or creativity that are of interest to their students. With this, private schools in Sukoharjo district have shown that they have good quality education.

Many parents have deep and varied reasons for choosing a religious school for their children. They want their children to have a solid religious foundation as well as good morals and manners from an early age. These schools are considered capable of balancing religious and academic education by paying more attention to teaching religious values such as discipline, faith, good manners, and character formation in a positive way. They hope that the religious education received by their children can become a strong guide for life, helping them grow into pious or pious individuals, obedient to God, and have good behavior in everyday life. In these private schools, children not only study subjects such as mathematics or language, but also receive in-depth religious education. The religious-based curriculum includes activities such as reading scriptures regularly, building noble morals, disciplining children, and instilling values such as fear of God, respect for parents, and upholding their manners.

One of the main factors that influences parents' decisions in choosing a school is the cost of education. The cost of education includes initial fees, educational development contributions (spp), and other monthly fees. The source of funding for public schools is mostly borne by the government through the state budget, so the costs charged to parents are lighter. In contrast, the source of funding for private schools is mostly borne by the parents of students to fund various educational programs, facilities, and services that the school offers.<sup>18</sup>

Parents' decision to choose private schools is influenced by the desire to provide the best education for their children. SDIT Darul Falah Grogol, SD Tarakanita Grogol, SD Kristen Sukoharjo, SDIT MTA Sukoharjo, SD Kristen Widya Wacana X Kartasura, and SDIT Muhammadiyah Al-Kautsar Kartasura have religious-based education programs, which are not always available in public schools. This gives parents a sense of satisfaction, because their children not only gain academic knowledge, but also ethical principles and religious values that play an important role in shaping a better personality. In addition to religion-based education, complete extracurricular activities are also factors that are considered in choosing a school, because they channel the interests and talents that children have. Therefore, even though the cost of education in private schools is higher, parents believe that they get facilities, school conditions, quality of education, and other in-class needs that will be used by their children as students at the school.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> A. Rahman and A. Nasihin, "Mampukah Sekolah Gratis Mencapai Pemenuhan Standar Nasional Pendidikan?," *Ta'dibuna: Jurnal Pendidikan Islam* 9, no. 1 (2020): 103, <https://doi.org/10.32832/tadibuna.v9i1.2863>.

<sup>19</sup> Perwita and Widuri, "Telaah Pendidikan: Preferensi Orang Tua Memilih Sekolah Swasta daripada Sekolah Negeri."

Educational facilities are one of the crucial elements to achieve learning goals in schools. The utilization of learning facilities must be carried out efficiently so that learning targets can be achieved. These facilities function as support to ensure the smooth running of the student learning process. Adequate facilities and infrastructure are also an attraction for prospective students in choosing educational institutions because of the importance of creating a decent and comfortable learning environment. When learning facilities are adequate and comfortable, the learning process will take place better, so that students can feel safe, comfortable, and facilitated. In addition, a conducive learning atmosphere is greatly influenced by the existence of complete and adequate school facilities, which can encourage students to be active in developing their potential. Because if it is not managed properly and correctly, both teachers and students will not be able to utilize these facilities optimally in the learning process.<sup>20</sup> Educational facilities are very extensive, not only classrooms, but must also be equipped with technology and other supporting facilities in accordance with the increasingly rapid development of the times.

For that, students need to be given the opportunity to develop according to their interests, talents, and abilities to achieve the expected goals. This effort cannot be separated from the role of schools in providing services, both in the form of physical and non-physical facilities to support the achievement of school goals.<sup>21</sup> However, there are still many educational institutions that face deficiencies in terms of facilities and infrastructure, which can disrupt the activities and effectiveness of student learning activities. In fact, adequate facilities and infrastructure are an absolute necessity that must be met by educational institutions. Lack of facilities in education has a negative impact on the learning process, especially in the modern era which is highly dependent on technology. Incomplete facilities and infrastructure can hinder learning activities, disrupt the development of student potential and reduce the quality of the learning process as a whole. Therefore, it is very important for educational institutions to ensure the availability of adequate facilities to support successful learning.

Quality education must be supported by quality educators, namely educators who are professional, dignified and have high dedication.<sup>22</sup> In addition to the quality of school education, the quality of educators is also a concern for parents in determining schools for their children, because a teacher or educator has an important role in determining the quality of education. In

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<sup>20</sup> Saehudin and A. Sutisna, "Kurikulum Terpadu Berbasis Nilai-Nilai Islami," *Paedagogie: Jurnal Pendidikan dan Studi Islam* 1, no. 1 (2020): 1–19, <https://doi.org/10.52593/pgd.01.1.01>.

<sup>21</sup> H. Prasetya, "Penerapan Metode Manajemen Proyek dalam Meningkatkan Kualitas Perpustakaan Berbasis Teknologi Informasi," *Ideguru: Jurnal Karya Ilmiah Guru* 6, no. 3 (2021): 247–56, <https://doi.org/10.51169/ideguru.v6i3.278>.

<sup>22</sup> N.H. Murtafiah, "Manajemen Pengendalian Kinerja Pendidik dalam Meningkatkan Mutu Pembelajaran pada Lembaga Pendidikan Islam," *Jurnal Pendidikan dan Konseling* 4, no. 6 (2022): 4614–18, <https://doi.org/10.31004/jpdk.v4i6.9004>.

addition, teachers are people who often interact directly with students, so a teacher must have adequate competence and skills in carrying out the learning process.<sup>23</sup> If the teacher has qualified and qualified competence, then this will be an advantage and attraction for the school. The school will make various efforts to have qualified educators such as conducting development and training to improve pedagogical skills, holding seminars filled by someone who is an expert in their field, conducting comparative studies with other schools, and accepting criticism or suggestions from parents.

Private education can be used as a second choice after public education is fulfilled. Now this view has shifted, seen from the development of the current world of education. Currently, private educational institutions have attracted the attention of every parent to send their children to school.<sup>24</sup> Many parents think that sending their children to private schools is a good choice to help their children's academic and character development. They believe that private schools have an education system with a high standard curriculum and qualified educators. Facilities such as computer labs, libraries, and comfortable classrooms are also the main attractions. A good environment also affects children's growth and development, because a supportive learning atmosphere can motivate and encourage children to learn. In addition, private schools often offer additional programs such as technology, arts and sports that make children's learning experiences more diverse and can improve children's skills and potential in both academic and non-academic fields.

Religion is one of the motivating factors for parents to choose to send their children to private schools. In society, it is believed that religion is a very influential force in social life. Religion includes all actions and habits that are often carried out by humans in everyday life based on faith in God, so that the actions carried out by humans themselves will later produce positive values in their daily lives.<sup>25</sup> In the world of education, to face all the developments of the era which in reality there are not a few cases of deviation, education based on religion is very much needed. With education based on religious values, indirectly and slowly schools will have a culture that forms a religious character that is in accordance with education based on the profile of Pancasila

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<sup>23</sup> J.D.F. Timpal and V.R. Moku, "Pengaruh Kompetensi Spiritual, Pedagogik, dan Sosial Guru Pendidikan Agama Kristen terhadap Kualitas Belajar Mengajar Siswa," *Dunamis: Jurnal Teologi dan Pendidikan Kristiani* 6, no. 2 (2022): 708–22, <https://doi.org/10.30648/dun.v6i2.676>.

<sup>24</sup> Perwita and Widuri, "Telaah Pendidikan: Preferensi Orang Tua Memilih Sekolah Swasta daripada Sekolah Negeri."

<sup>25</sup> Cahyani Munawir et al., "Implementasi Pendidikan Agama Islam dalam Penanaman Budaya Religius untuk Meningkatkan Pembentukan Karakteristik Islami," *Mimbar Kampus: Jurnal Pendidikan dan Agama Islam* 23, no. 1 (2024): 477–93, <https://doi.org/10.47467/mk.v23i1.5383>.

students.<sup>26</sup> With this, children can slowly determine and think before acting and can sort and choose between good actions and bad actions in accordance with religious character that reflects faith in their God.

Many parents send their children to private schools because the instillation of religious values will be deeper, with this parents will believe that when the child graduates from school later, his character and morals have been formed from formal education at the level he has taken. Character is a distinctive feature possessed by an individual in every action, then in responding to something and in his speech, in other words this character is a nature and morals that can distinguish between one individual and another.<sup>27</sup> This character and morals will be formed according to the culture applied in the school, this school culture is very important in the progress of the school because the habituation program is carried out routinely and has been stated in the school curriculum and this habituation program and instillation of religious values is usually only available in private schools.

Research on the phenomenon of many parents sending their children to private schools, especially in Sukoharjo Regency, can be linked to the use of the Dysfunctional Family theory put forward by Robert K. Merton, where families experience a shift in function that will have an impact on the system of a group, especially in the family system.<sup>28</sup> This theory explains that family dysfunction occurs due to failure to carry out its functions so that the needs of family members are not optimally met. In this context, the family should be the main place to instill religious values and character formation in children, but when families feel unable to meet these needs, they tend to look for external institutions such as private religious schools to replace or complement the functions that are not being carried out, such as ensuring that children's religious and moral needs are met according to the values they consider important.

However, currently the function of the family has changed, families are increasingly powerless in educating children in today's era where socializing is very dangerous, so parents hand over their responsibilities to the school. As happened in Sukoharjo district, parents chose to send their children to private religious schools to seek religious education for their children. This is because their parents' religious education that they provide at home is not enough to meet the expectations of their children's development. Therefore, they entrust the school to help shape the

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<sup>26</sup> Q.H. Hanifah et al., "Peran Budaya Sekolah dalam Pembentukan Karakter Religius Berbasis Profil Pelajar Pancasila SD Muhammadiyah 1 Kudus," *Pendas: Jurnal Ilmiah Pendidikan Dasar* 8, no. 1 (2023): 2530–41, <https://doi.org/10.23969/jp.v8i1.8116>.

<sup>27</sup> N.A.W. Arimbi and M. Minsih, "Budaya Sekolah pada Pembentukan Karakter Religiusitas pada Siswa Sekolah Dasar," *Jurnal Obsesi: Jurnal Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini* 6, no. 6 (2022): 6409–16, <https://doi.org/10.31004/obsesi.v6i6.3042>.

<sup>28</sup> S.L.R. Enjang et al., "Dampak Peralihan Peran Orang Tua kepada Kakek Nenek terhadap Kehidupan Sosial Remaja," *Jurnal Etintas Sosiologi* 13, no. 1 (2024): 82–102.

character and personality of their children through instilling deeper religious values. However, not all parents only delegate this responsibility to the school, they realize the importance of maintaining good communication within the family so that the character education process does not only depend on the school. This combination reflects an effort to create a relationship between the role of the school and the family in shaping the child's personality as a whole, both in terms of academics, religiously, and emotionally.

## CONCLUSION

Based on research conducted in several private schools in Sukoharjo Regency, parents' decision to choose private schools is because they believe that private schools have better quality education, more complete facilities, and in-depth religious-based programs to shape children's character and morals. Private schools are also considered capable of balancing academic education, religion, and the development of children's talents. Although the cost of education in private schools is quite high, parents still consider it commensurate with the facilities and programs provided. However, several complaints related to limited facilities such as narrow land still arise, although the school tries to be responsive by discussing solutions with parents. Parents also have hopes that schools can help shape children's characters who are pious, have good morals, and have moral provisions to face the development of the times. Thus, private schools are a solution to complement the function of the family, namely educating and shaping children's personalities.

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