

MORAL DEGRADATION OF MANNERS AMONG PUBLIC JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to describe the various forms of moral degradation in students' Manners behavior in Junior High School (SMP) in Padang City, as well as the factors that influence it. This research uses a qualitative approach. The research sample was purposively selected with the consideration that the data source has relevant knowledge related to the phenomenon under study. The data collection techniques used included observation, interviews, and document analysis. Data validity was checked through triangulation of data sources. Data analysis was carried out through the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The subjects in this study were junior high school students and teachers where this research took place. This research was conducted in the even semester of the 2023/2024 academic year. The results of the study obtained conclusions, first, the forms of moral degradation of manners of junior high school students in Padang City, namely: Students do not respect teachers, Students say dirty words, Students interrupt other people's opinions, Do not ask permission to enter the classroom, Disturb other students when they are learning. Second, the degradation of moral manners of junior high school students in Padang City is influenced by two factors, namely Internal factors and factors from within the students themselves. External factors are school environment, family environment, community environment, and peers.

Keywords

Moral Degradation, Manners, Junior High School Students, Padang City



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INTRODUCTION

There has been a moral degradation of manners and values practiced by junior high school students. The behavior practiced by junior high school students seems to have lost the attitude of brotherhood, mutual respect, and mutual appreciation. We can see this from many news about student behaviors that do not reflect the values of courtesy, as quoted from one of the online news *kompas.com* where junior high school students in Riau dared to burn down the school because they were reprimanded by the teacher for eating in class (Khairina, 2022). while in Jakarta, junior high school students bully female teachers by dancing and singing in front of the teacher while learning. This certainly indicates that the moral manners of junior high school students are very worrying at the moment (Komara, 2019).

So far, studies on the moral degradation of junior high school students' manners tend to analyze the influence of media, school culture, peers, and social environment that cause moral degradation of junior high school students' manners values. The tendency of media influence can be seen in three types of research. First, the influence of TikTok, YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter media on students' manners behavior (Insani et al., 2019; Pangestu intan aji, 2021; Rahmadillah, 2022; Salsabila et al., 2021). Second, studies that write about how peer relationships influence students' polite behavior (Adolfina Oualeng, 2022; Mahmudi & Wardani, 2022; Nurfita, 2017; Rusman, 2022). Third, studies that emphasize aspects of school culture and exemplary teachers as shapers of student manners (Fajrianti, 2019; Hardiyana, 2014; Hasyim, 2015; Maturohmah & Jannah, 2017). Fourth, the influence of the social environment on students' manners (Citra, 2020; Fauziah Nasution, 2023; Wati et al., 2023).

This paper is intended to complement the shortcomings of previous studies on the Moral Degradation of Junior High School Students. However, the novelty that researchers offer in this study is different from previous studies. Specifically, this paper aims to describe the forms of moral degradation in the manners of junior high school students in Padang City and the factors that influence the moral degradation of junior high school students' manners in Padang City (Findings). The novelty of this research focuses more on students' manners. Research on moral degradation is common, but there is no research that specifically discusses the indicators of good manners.

The main objective of this study is to explore and analyze the forms and factors that cause moral degradation of manners of public junior high school students in Padang City. Understanding the dynamics of moral behavior is expected to contribute to the development of the discourse on

moral degradation, especially in the context of the secondary education environment. On the theoretical side, this research is expected to enrich the academic literature by providing in-depth insights into patterns of moral behavior in schools, forming a solid theoretical basis for understanding moral problems among students. The pragmatic side of this research emerges in a real effort to provide concrete solutions by detailing the forms and factors causing moral degradation. Thus, it can be a foundation for the development of character education programs that are more focused and have a real impact on the secondary education environment.

METHOD

This research focuses on the Moral Degradation of Public Junior High School Students in Padang City, taking location at SMPN 35 Padang, which is located across the Palinggam. The reason for choosing this location is because the junior high school is located on the edge of the city, which lacks attention from the government, and its students are known for violent behavior. This research has a qualitative approach and relies on primary and secondary data. Primary data was obtained through field studies, which included direct observation to understand various aspects relevant to this research. This data is needed to map the various forms and factors that cause moral degradation that occurs among SMPN 35 Padang students.

Meanwhile, in the data collection process, the research involved two groups of informants, namely PPKn teachers as the first informant and junior high school students in grade IX as the second informant. The research process lasted for four months, which included desk review, field observation, and in-depth interviews. Before conducting field research, a literature study was conducted to understand the phenomenon of moral degradation in junior high school students. Observations were conducted to directly examine student behavior and observe the phenomenon of moral degradation. More in-depth data was collected through in-depth interviews with informants, with the aim of exploring their daily information in carrying out activities at school.

Analysis of the data in this research is done through data reduction, data presentation, conclusion drawing, and verification. In data reduction, researchers reduced data related to forms of moral degradation and factors causing moral degradation experienced by junior high school students. These data were obtained from the results of field studies, observations, and interviews with informants, including teachers and junior high school students. Data presentation was done by describing various forms of moral degradation observed during the research. These data were organized systematically to provide a clear picture of the phenomenon of moral degradation among

junior high school students. In data analysis, the researcher conducted a critical analysis of various findings related to the moral degradation of junior high school students. This analysis was conducted by considering relevant theories in the field of character education and student behavior. Furthermore, the researcher also compared the research findings with previous relevant research. The findings in this study will reflect the results of the study on moral degradation in the manners behavior of junior high school students. Various forms of moral degradation include rude behavior, bullying, misuse of language, and acts of disrespect towards teachers and fellow students. Factors causing moral degradation include internal factors and external factors.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

Forms of Moral Degradation of Junior High School Students in Padang City

The results of observations on February 20, 2023, related to indicators of respect for elders asking permission when entering the room. Researchers say that some students lack respect for teachers. This was seen when researchers entered one of the classes, but students in other classes continued to disturb students in the class being entered by researchers even though the teacher was in the classroom. And researchers also saw that some students, when entering the office, did not say greetings or ask permission. They went straight in and did what they needed to do.

The results of observations on February 24, 2023, are related to indicators of being dirty, rude, and arrogant, treating others as one wants to be treated. Researchers say that during break time playing, some students said inappropriate words while playing with their friends, and researchers also saw that there were some students who felt superior to other students, and they took actions such as pushing friends while challenging them to fight and so on.

In general, the results of the observations made can be seen from the following table of observation results:

Table 1. Student Behavior at School

No.	Aspect	Student behavior
1.	Students do not respect the teacher	example: when the teacher tells them to go to class, the students run away from the class and run to the school field.
2.	Students say dirty words	Example: students are seen talking with their friends. They say dirty words and use harsh words to criticize their friends.

3.	Students interrupt other people's opinions	Example: during the learning process, one of the students is expressing his opinion, and another student cuts him off and does not respect his friend's opinion.
4.	Students do not behave 3 S	For example, researchers say students do not shake hands, smile, and greet but only run and play with their friends. When leaving the class to go home, some students shook hands, and some went straight out of the class.
5.	Not asking permission to enter the classroom	Example: during the learning process, three students were late for class 15 minutes and then immediately entered the class without permission, and students from other classes joined the class even though it was not their class.
6.	Disrupting other students	For example, during class time, some students were seen disturbing their friends, such as throwing rolled-up paper at their friends.

The result table above shows some student behaviors that do not show good manners when students are at school. Based on the results of interviews with several informants, the behavior that students most often do at school is as conveyed by informant (1) "Usually in the local there are 3-4 people who often sit on the table" while according to informant (2) "if in the local there are usually several students disturbing other students, some even cry" further confirmed by informant (3) "most of the students here do not respect the teacher, especially after yesterday's covid, such as not greeting the teacher, even students here have the courage to fight the teacher" while informant (4) said that "Students here behave depending on their mood. Sometimes, students are obedient and respectful towards the teachers here. Sometimes students here do not care about the teacher's orders and talk like their friends". This certainly indicates that the impact of covid 19 is not only on human health but also on student morals, one of which is student manners because with the implementation of PSBB during the COVID-19 pandemic, learning must be done from home for a long time and automatically it will have an impact on student attitudes.

Factors Causing the Degradation of Manners among Junior High School Students in Padang City

The application of good manners to teenagers aims to make a child have good manners to parents, teachers, and friends or in everyday life that always meets many people. Recently, after COVID-19 19, many students' manners in the school environment have begun to fade. This is certainly caused by several factors, both external and internal, which can be seen below:

Table 2. Factors causing the decline in manners

Internal Factors	External Factors
Yourself	School environment
	Family environment
	Community Environment
	Peer association

Source:(Jannah, 2023)

From the result table above, it can be seen that there are several factors that cause moral degradation of students' manners. Based on the results of interviews with informants (1), "Maybe I made the wrong friends because I was able to get to know and start trying to consume cigarettes and liquor. I also began to disrespect my parents and dare to argue with my parents' words. Sometimes I like to get angry with my parents because of my own desires". From this statement, and it is clear that the influence of peers is very large on student behavior in everyday life. This is also emphasized by the statement conveyed by informant (2): "I come home early because I like to hang out on the side of the road with my friends where we smoke and drink alcohol. In addition to the above, family is also a very important element in shaping students' polite behavior, but sometimes parents ignore this function, of course, because they are too busy working, this will certainly have a serious impact on children's behavior, this is certainly confirmed by what was conveyed by informant (4) "if for communication with parents, it is rare, bang because parents are busy working." This was also emphasized by informant (1): "When at home, it is rare to eat with parents bang because parents work until the night bang."

Discussion

After obtaining the results on the instrument, the researcher analyzed the data with the stages of data reduction, examination, and conclusions.

Forms of Moral Degradation in Junior High Schools in Padang City

The current degradation of morals and manners among junior high school students in Padang City is creating concerns about the ethical future of the younger generation. Some forms of this degradation can be seen in various behaviors that reflect a decline in social and ethical values among students. (Lickona, 2013) has identified ten key indicators of moral degradation that can be potential signs of a nation's destruction. These indicators include various aspects such as increasing levels of violence against teenagers, the use of harsh and inappropriate words, the negative influence of stronger peer groups, the increasing use of alcohol, free sex, and illegal drugs, and the increasingly blurred moral boundaries between good and bad behavior. In addition, low work ethic, lack of

respect for teachers and parents, weak individual responsibility, and a culture of dishonesty and mutual suspicion are also significant indicators in measuring the level of moral decline in society.

In line with that, based on the table of results above, it is clear that currently, the forms of moral degradation that occur at SMPN 35 Padang are: First, students lack respect for teachers. This is certainly caused by many factors, one of which is changes in social and cultural dynamics that may affect the values applied in the educational environment. Another factor involves limited communication or understanding between teachers and students, which can be caused by inappropriate teaching styles or the teacher's inability to adapt to individual student differences. In addition, external challenges such as social pressure, family instability, or negative influences from the surrounding environment can also play a role in shaping students' attitudes towards teachers (Andhika, 2021).

Secondly, students tend to use profanity and disrespectful words in their interactions with peers. This phenomenon may illustrate a potential deficiency in the introduction of ethical values and healthy communication among students. According to Rumra & Rahayu (2021), students' lack of control over good speech has a significant impact, one of which is that students become more prone to using harsh words, insulting, or berating others. This suggests the need for greater efforts to shape more positive communication behaviors and teach students to value values such as good manners and respect for others in interacting with their peers.

Third, students interrupt other people's opinions. This attitude can have a negative impact, reduce the comfort of others, and even make students who are interrupted feel offended. This attitude can disrupt the learning process. Therefore, it is necessary to teach students the importance of listening patiently and respecting other people's speaking time in order to create a conducive atmosphere in the teaching and learning process (Safitri & Ananthia, 2023).

Fourth, students do not ask permission to enter the classroom. This is due to a lack of habit formation of manners and etiquette among students. They may not have fully realized the importance of asking permission or giving notice when entering the classroom in order to enter the room in a more orderly manner and respect the ongoing activities. According to Waldi (2019), The importance of asking permission before entering a room or before taking things from friends is part of social manners that should be applied in daily interactions. This incident emphasizes the need for education and reminders about the importance of behaving politely and respecting the privacy and consent of others in situations like this.

Fifth, disrupting other students. Disruptive behavior towards other students is attributed to many things ranging from individual motivation, which can play an important role. Students who feel inadequately cared for, not accepted, or depressed may try to get attention in inappropriate ways, including disrupting other students. This can be a strategy to attract attention or feel more powerful in a situation where they feel they have no control. In addition, according to (Fitri, 2020), the environment can also contribute to the occurrence of disruptive behavior by students. An unstable environment at home or outside of school, family conflicts, or traumatic experiences can affect student behavior at school. Students may carry emotional baggage or stress that is not well expressed, and disruptive behavior can be their way of coping or expressing their frustration. This lack of attitude can lead to egocentric attitudes, where learners tend to think only of their own needs and interests and are less able to respect others or behave arbitrarily. In an educational context, it is crucial to teach students about the importance of empathy, cooperation, and respect for others so that they can grow into more caring and responsible individuals in society (Sinaga et al., 2022).

Factors causing the degradation of manners among junior high school students in Padang City

Moral degradation among junior high school students in Padang City can be caused by several factors that emerged from the research. In this context, the influence of peers stands out as the main determinant, as reflected in the recognition of students who experienced changes in behavior after being involved in cigarette and alcohol consumption activities that were initiated by peers. In addition, the role of the family is also a significant factor, as revealed through statements about limited time and communication due to parents' busy working lives. Thus, there is a tendency for a lack of interaction and monitoring from the family can exacerbate students' moral degradation.

In line with that, according to Tranggono et al. (2023), moral degradation and manners can be influenced by interrelated internal and external factors. Internal factors involve aspects such as personal values, moral awareness, and individual integrity. If a person lacks moral awareness or engages in actions that go against their internal values, this can lead to moral degradation. The tendency to justify unethical behavior or lack of empathy are also internal factors that can undermine an individual's ethics.

On the other hand, external factors include the social environment, associations, and culture. An environment that is not supportive of moral norms or the pressure of a bad company can play a significant role in moral degradation. The influence of media and popular culture that celebrates immoral behavior can also contribute significantly. Although not all students experience moral

degradation to the same degree, the role of these factors can influence the extent to which one may be exposed to and affected by them. Individual experiences and resilience to these internal and external influences can vary, so the impact of moral degradation is not necessarily uniform across all junior secondary students. In line with this (Lubis, 2022). Revealed that the social environment at school has a significant impact on the moral development of junior high school students, where students who are exposed to a school environment that supports moral norms tend to have lower levels of moral degradation. In addition, positive social influences and a school culture that promotes ethical values have also been shown to contribute to protecting students from moral degradation. According to Ali (2009), difficulties or obstacles in building a young generation with character in learners come from outside (external), for example, from environmental factors, learners' families, school environment, and community environment.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and discussion above, it can be concluded that the degradation of moral manners of public junior high school students in the city of Padang in the modern era is now a very serious degradation of manners. This can be seen from several forms of degradation of manners that occur in students, such as Students not respecting teachers, Students saying dirty, Students interrupting other people's opinions, Not asking permission to enter the classroom, and disturbing other students while learning. In addition, there are also several factors that influence the moral degradation of students' manners, namely internal factors, themselves, external factors of the school environment, family environment, community environment, and peers.

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