

The Effect of Intensity of Religious Activities and Social Environment on Juvenile Delinquency Behavior in Early Adolescence Phase Tahfiz Program Students

Jadmiko Aji Saputro¹, Fajhri Prima Vandhi², Antony Mahendra³, Muhammad Alfi Syahrin⁴

¹ Pascasarjana Institut Ahmad Dahlan Probolinggo; ajijadmiko@gmail.com

² Pascasarjana Institut Ahmad Dahlan Probolinggo; Arsa.family2016@gmail.com

³ Pascasarjana Institut Ahmad Dahlan Probolinggo; antonymhd10@gmail.com

⁴ Pascasarjana Institut Ahmad Dahlan Probolinggo; alvinalsyahrin@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Keyword 1; Religious Activity Intensity

Keyword 2; Peer Environment

Keyword 3; Juvenile

Delinquency

Keyword 4; Early

Adolescence

Keyword 5; Tahfiz Students

Article history:

Received 2026-06-26

Revised 202-07-26

Accepted 2026-11-01

ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the influence of religious activity intensity and peer environment on juvenile delinquency among early adolescence students enrolled in a tahfiz program. The study employed a quantitative correlational design. The population consisted of 87 fifth- and sixth-grade tahfiz students at Sekolah Alam Insan Mulia Surabaya, with 32 students selected through purposive sampling. Data were collected using a closed-ended Likert-scale questionnaire and analyzed through multiple linear regression using SPSS. The results indicated that the intensity of religious activities had a significant negative effect on juvenile delinquency ($\beta = -1.136$; $p < 0.05$), suggesting that higher participation in religious activities is associated with lower levels of delinquent behavior. Meanwhile, the peer environment showed a positive but statistically insignificant effect on juvenile delinquency ($\beta = 0.440$; $p > 0.05$). Simultaneously, religious activity intensity and peer environment significantly influenced juvenile delinquency ($F = 11.290$; $p < 0.05$), with a coefficient of determination of 43.8%. These findings suggest that strengthening religious activities plays an important role in reducing juvenile delinquency, while the peer environment requires positive social support to contribute effectively to adaptive behavioral development among early adolescence students.

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Corresponding Author:

Jadmiko Aji Saputro

Pascasarjana Institut Ahmad Dahlan Probolinggo; ajijadmiko@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION

The *early adolescence phase* is a developmental stage characterized by biological, cognitive, and socio-emotional changes that take place rapidly. According to John W. Santrock, this phase is generally in the age range of 10–12 years and is the initial transition period from children to adolescents (Santrock, 2019). At this stage, individuals begin to show an increased need for independence, social recognition, as well as broader involvement in interactions with peers. Although most adolescents are able to

develop adaptively, the *early adolescence phase* is also a period that is vulnerable to the emergence of deviant behavior if it is not balanced with self-control, internalization of moral values, and the support of a positive social environment.

The phenomenon of juvenile delinquency in the *early adolescence* phase is still a problem that is often encountered in the educational and social environment. The form of delinquency at this stage generally does not lead to serious criminal acts, but more appears in the form of violations of social and disciplinary norms, such as non-compliance with school rules, low respect for teachers and parents, impolite behavior, and weak discipline in carrying out religious obligations. In addition, the development of social interaction in early adolescence also increases the tendency of individuals to follow peer group behavior, including when the social environment shows behavior patterns that are less conducive to moral and social development.

In the context of *early adolescence*, juvenile delinquency generally manifests in the form of minor delinquency related to violations of social norms and applicable rules. These forms of delinquency do not necessarily lead to serious criminal acts, but instead include behaviors such as disobedience to school rules, lack of respect for teachers and parents, and violations of academic integrity such as cheating (Andriati et al., 2021; Yusuf et al., 2021). Mild delinquency in early adolescence can be understood as an early indicator of weakened behavioral control which, if not handled appropriately, has the potential to develop into more serious deviant behavior. Therefore, the *early adolescence phase* is an important period in the formation of self-control and the internalization of moral values in individuals.

Theoretically, the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency can be explained through the theory of social control put forward by Travis Hirschi, which states that an individual's attachment to social, family, and moral institution values has a negative relationship with deviant behavior (Hirschi, 1969). Individuals with strong social ties tend to have lower levels of delinquency due to the presence of internal and external controls that limit deviant behavior (Costello & Laub, 2026). In the context of early adolescence, involvement in positive activities of a moral and religious nature can play a role as a form of strengthening social control in individuals.

One form of moral attachment can be seen through the intensity of religious activities. Conceptually, the intensity of religious activities indicates the level of involvement of individuals in religious activities on a regular and active basis. This concept relates to the dimension of the practice and practice of religiosity as described by Charles Y. Glock and Rodney Stark which includes the practice of worship, religious experience, religious knowledge, and the practice of religious values (Stark & Glock, 2019). In the context of early adolescence, involvement in religious activities is not only related to ritual activities, but also contributes to the formation of self-control, discipline, and the internalization of moral values in daily life. A number of studies have shown that involvement in religious activities is associated with a lower tendency to delinquent adolescents (Mohammad & Banse, 2023; Petts, 2009).

In addition to internal factors in the form of the intensity of religious activities, the social environment is also an external factor that has a strong influence on the formation of adolescent behavior. In the *early adolescence* phase, individuals begin to develop a greater need to be accepted into peer social groups, so group behavior is often a reference in action. This phenomenon can be explained through the *social learning theory* put forward by Albert Bandura, which states that individual behavior is learned through the process of observation, imitation, and reinforcement of the social environment (Bandura, 1971). In the context of juvenile delinquency, interactions with peers who exhibit negative behaviors can encourage individuals to imitate and internalize those behaviors (Sharma & Gupta, 2023; Yuet Yeng & Sehu Mohamad, 2023).

Thus, this study views juvenile delinquency in the *early adolescence* phase as a behavior influenced by internal social control factors through involvement in religious activities and social learning factors through peer associations. The intensity of religious activities plays a role in strengthening the individual's self-control and moral awareness, while the social environment shapes behavior through the process of social interaction and group conformity. In some conditions, a positive social environment can reinforce moral values in adolescents, but a less conducive environment also has the potential to weaken behavioral control even if the individual has a good enough religious involvement. Therefore, these two variables need to be studied simultaneously in understanding juvenile delinquency in the *early adolescence phase*.

A number of previous studies have shown that religiosity and social environment factors have a relationship with juvenile delinquency. Research by (Andriati et al., 2021) It was found that religiosity and peer groups had an effect on juvenile delinquency behavior in madrasah aliyah students. Other research conducted by (Petts, 2009) suggests that involvement in religious activities contributes to a decrease in the tendency of delinquent behavior in adolescents. Meanwhile, (Yusuf et al., 2021) and (Yuet Yeng & Sehu Mohamad, 2023) affirms that peer influence has a significant relationship with the emergence of deviant behavior in adolescents through processes of social conformity and peer pressure. However, most previous studies have focused more on general adolescents or high school students, while studies that specifically test the influence of the intensity of religious activities and the social environment simultaneously in the *early adolescence phase* are still relatively limited, especially in tahfiz program students who have more intense religious activity characteristics than elementary school students in general.

Based on this description, this study aims to: (1) analyze the influence of the intensity of religious activities on juvenile delinquency in the *early adolescence phase*, (2) analyze the influence of the social environment on juvenile delinquency in the *early adolescence phase*, and (3) analyze the influence of the intensity of religious activities and the social environment simultaneously on juvenile delinquency in the *early adolescence phase*. This research is expected to make an academic contribution to the development of adolescent behavior studies, as well as be considered in efforts to build character and strengthen moral values from an early age.

2. METHODS

Metode This study uses a quantitative approach with a type of correlational research to analyze the influence of the intensity of religious activities and the social environment on juvenile delinquency in students of the tahfiz program in the *early adolescence phase*. The quantitative approach is used because this study aims to objectively test the relationship and influence between variables through statistical analysis (Creswell, 2017). The research was carried out on students in grades V and VI of the tahfiz program at Sekolah Alam Insan Mulia Surabaya who are generally in the age range of *early adolescence*. The research population was 87 students, consisting of 36 students in class V and 51 students in class VI. The sampling technique uses *purposive sampling*, which is the determination of samples based on certain criteria that are in accordance with the research objectives, namely students who are in the *early adolescence phase*. The number of samples in this study is 32 students.

The data collection technique was carried out using a closed questionnaire with a Likert scale of five levels of answers, namely strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, and strongly agree. The Likert scale is used to measure respondents' attitudes, perceptions, and behavioral tendencies towards research variables (Sugiyono, 2019). The research instruments were compiled based on indicators of the intensity of religious activities, social environment, and juvenile delinquency developed from Glock

and Stark's theory of religiosity, Albert Bandura's theory of social learning, and Travis Hirschi's theory of social control. Before being used in research, the instrument is tested through validity and reliability tests to ensure the feasibility of the research instrument.

The data analysis technique was carried out using descriptive and inferential statistical analysis with the help of SPSS software. Descriptive analysis is used to describe the characteristics of the research data, while inferential analysis is used to test the research hypothesis through multiple linear regression. Before hypothesis testing was carried out, the data were first tested using classical assumption tests which included normality, multicollinearity, and heteroscedasticity tests. Hypothesis testing is carried out through partial tests (*t-test*), simultaneous tests (*F-test*), and determination coefficients to determine the magnitude of the influence of independent variables on dependent variables (Ghozali, 2021).

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Result

A. Classic Assumption Test

Before multiple linear regression analysis is performed, a classical assumption test is first performed to ensure that the regression model meets the necessary statistical requirements. The classical assumption test in this study includes the normality test, the multicollinearity test, and the heteroscedasticity test.

a. Normality Test

Table 1. Results of the Normality Test

Statistik	Value
Shapiro-Wilk	0.964
Sig.	0.353

The results of the normality test showed a significance value of $0.353 > 0.05$, so that the residual data was normally distributed and met the normality assumptions.

b. Multicollinearity Test

Table 2. Results of the Multicollinearity Test

Variabel	Tolerance	VIF
Intensity of Religious Activities (X1)	0.810	1.235
Social Environment (X2)	0.810	1.235

The tolerance value of all variables > 0.10 and the VIF value < 10 , so it can be concluded that there is no multicollinearity in the regression model.

c. Heteroscedasticity Test

Table 3. Results of the Heteroscedasticity Test

Statistik	Value
Sig.	0.703

Significance values of $0.703 > 0.05$ indicate that the regression model does not experience heteroscedasticity so that it meets the assumption of homoscedasticity.

d. Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

Multiple linear regression analysis was carried out to determine the influence of the intensity of religious activities and the social environment on juvenile delinquency in tahfiz

program students in *the early adolescence* phase. This analysis is used to test the influence of independent variables either partially or simultaneously on dependent variables.

e. **Model Summary**

The following table shows the results of the regression model determination coefficient test.

Table 4. Model Summary of Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.662	0.438	0.399	3.929

Based on the *Model Summary table*, an R value of 0.662 was obtained which shows that the relationship between the variables of the intensity of religious activities and the social environment on juvenile delinquency is in the strong category. The *R Square value* of 0.438 shows that 43.8% of the variation in juvenile delinquency can be explained by the variables of the intensity of religious activities and the social environment. Meanwhile, the remaining 56.2% was influenced by other factors outside the study. The *Adjusted R Square value* of 0.399 indicates that after adjusting for the number of independent variables and the number of study samples, the contribution of both variables to juvenile delinquency remained in the moderate category. The *Std. Error of the Estimate value* of 3.929 indicates a relatively low level of regression model prediction error.

f. **Simultaneous Test (ANOVA)**

The results of the simultaneous test using the F test are presented in the following table.

Table 5. ANOVA Results of the Multiple Linear Regression Model

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	348.512	2	174.256	11.290	0.000
Residual	447.707	29	15.438		
Total	796.219	31			

Based on the ANOVA table, an F value of 11,290 was obtained with a significance value of $0.000 < 0.05$. These results show that the intensity of religious activities and the social environment simultaneously have a significant effect on juvenile delinquency in tahfiz program students in *the early adolescence* phase. Thus, the regression model used in this study is declared feasible to explain the relationship between the research variables.

g. **Uji Parsial (Coefficients)**

The results of the partial test using the t-test are presented in the following table.

Table 6. Multiple Linear Regression Coefficients

Variabel	Unstandardized B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
(Constant)	68.972	8.214		8.396	0.000
Intensity of Religious Activities (X1)	-1.136	0.239	-0.641	-4.748	0.000
Social Environment (X2)	0.440	0.228	0.260	1.927	0.064

Based on the *Coefficients table*, the multiple linear regression equation is obtained as follows:

$$[Y = 68,972 - 1.136X_1 + 0.440X_2]$$

The regression equation shows that the constant value of 68,972 indicates that if the variables of the intensity of religious activities and the social environment are considered constant, then the value of juvenile delinquency is 68,972.

The regression coefficient of the religious activity intensity variable of -1,136 indicates the direction of the negative relationship. This means that every one unit increase in the intensity of religious activities will reduce juvenile delinquency by 1,136. The results of the t-test showed a significance value of $0.000 < 0.05$, so that the intensity of religious activities had a significant effect on juvenile delinquency. Meanwhile, the social environment variable has a regression coefficient of 0.440 which indicates a positive relationship with juvenile delinquency. However, the results of the t-test showed a significance value of $0.064 > 0.05$, so that partially the social environment did not have a significant effect on juvenile delinquency in students of the tahfiz program in the early adolescence phase.

2. DISCUSSION

a. Bagian The Effect of Religious Activity Intensity on Juvenile Delinquency

The results of the study showed that the intensity of religious activities had a significant effect on juvenile delinquency in students of the tahfiz program in the early adolescence phase. The results of the partial test showed a significance value of $0.000 < 0.05$ with a negative regression coefficient direction. These findings show that the higher the intensity of students' religious activities, the lower the tendency of juvenile delinquency behavior.

The findings of this study indicate that students' involvement in religious activities is able to form self-control, discipline, and moral awareness in daily life. In the early adolescence phase, individuals are at a developmental stage that is still vulnerable to the influence of deviant behavior, so that the strengthening of religious values becomes an important factor in the formation of positive social behavior.

The results of this study are relevant to the theory of social control put forward by (Hirschi, 1969) which states that an individual's attachment to social, moral, and religious values can reduce the tendency to deviant behavior. In the context of this study, religious activities function as a form of *social bond* that strengthens students' internal control over negative behavior. The stronger the

student's attachment to religious activities, the greater the individual's ability to control deviant behavior.

In addition, the findings of this study are also in line with the concept of religiosity put forward by (Stark & Glock, 2019) which explains that religiosity is not only related to beliefs, but also the practice and practice of religious values in daily life. The intensity of involvement in religious activities can strengthen the internalization of moral values so that individuals are better able to distinguish behaviors that are appropriate and contrary to social norms.

The results of this study support the research conducted by (Mohammad & Banse, 2023) which states that religiosity has a negative relationship with juvenile delinquency because it is able to strengthen the moral control and social behavior of adolescents. Other research by (Sahin & Unlu, 2021) It was also found that the dimensions of religious practice and the religious environment contributed to a decrease in delinquent behavior in adolescents.

Thus, the results of this study emphasize that strengthening religious activities in tahfiz program students has an important contribution in preventing the emergence of juvenile delinquency in the *early adolescence phase*. Religious activities that are carried out regularly not only form spiritual habits, but also become a mechanism for the formation of students' self-control and moral character.

b. The Influence of the Social Environment on Juvenile Delinquency

The results of the study showed that the social environment had a positive relationship with juvenile delinquency, but partially did not have a significant effect. This is shown by a significance value of $0.064 > 0.05$. The findings show that the social environment has not been the dominant factor that affects juvenile delinquency in students of the tahfiz program *in the early adolescence phase*.

Although not statistically significant, the direction of positive relationships suggests that the social environment still has the potential to influence adolescent behavior. The less conducive the social environment of students, the tendency of juvenile delinquency also tends to increase. However, the influence on this study was not strong enough to have a partial significant impact.

These conditions can be influenced by the characteristics of the study respondents who are students of the tahfiz program with a relatively high intensity of religious activities. A tahfiz-based school environment allows students to obtain stronger moral guidance and behavioral supervision than a general educational environment. Therefore, the negative influence of the social environment can be minimized through strengthening religious values and character formation in the school environment.

The findings of this study remain relevant to the social learning theory put forward by (Bandura, 1971) which explains that individual behavior is studied through the process of observation, imitation, and social interaction with the surrounding environment. In this theory, peers have an important role in shaping adolescent behavior through the process of imitation and social reinforcement.

Previous research has also shown that peer environments have a link to juvenile delinquency. (Yusuf et al., 2021) explains that peer influence can increase the tendency of deviant behavior through the process of group conformity. Similarly, research (Yuet Yeng & Sehu Mohamad, 2023) suggests that peer group pressure has a contribution to delinquent behavior in

adolescents. However, in this study, the influence has not shown strong significance because of the possibility of a more dominant internal control factor in tahfiz program students.

Thus, the results of this study show that the social environment remains a factor that needs to be considered in the development of adolescent behavior, although in the context of tahfiz program students this influence has not been the main factor that determines the emergence of juvenile delinquency.

c. The Effect of Intensity of Religious Activities and the Simultaneous Social Environment on Adolescent Delinquency

The results of the study showed that the intensity of religious activities and the social environment simultaneously had a significant effect on juvenile delinquency in students of the tahfiz program *in the early adolescence* phase. The results of the simultaneous test showed a significance value of $0.000 < 0.05$ with a determination coefficient value of 43.8%. These findings suggest that the two variables together have contributed to explaining the variation in juvenile delinquency. These results show that adolescents' behavior is not only influenced by internal factors in the form of religiosity, but also by external factors in the form of the social environment. In the *early adolescence phase*, individuals are at a stage of social development that begins to expand interaction with the peer environment so that the formation of behavior is influenced by a combination of internal control and social processes in the surrounding environment.

Theoretically, the results of this study strengthen the integration between the social control theories of the (Hirschi, 1969) and social learning theories from (Bandura, 1971). Social control theory explains that an individual's attachment to moral and religious values can limit deviant behavior, while social learning theory explains that behavior is learned through social interactions and peer environmental influences. In this study, the intensity of religious activities functions as a strengthening of students' internal control, while the social environment is a social learning medium that can strengthen or weaken students' positive behavior. Therefore, the formation of adolescent character cannot only focus on the aspect of religiosity, but also needs to pay attention to the quality of the social environment in which adolescents interact.

The findings of this study are also in line with the research (Montagnet, 2023) which suggests that religiosity is associated with a decrease in delinquent behavior when supported by positive social and environmental ties. In addition,, (Mohammad & Banse, 2023) explained that religiosity functions as a protective factor against juvenile delinquency through the formation of moral control and the strengthening of positive social identity. Based on these results, it can be understood that efforts to prevent juvenile delinquency in the *early adolescence phase* require a comprehensive approach through strengthening religious activities as well as the formation of a positive social environment. The synergy between family, school, and social environment is an important factor in shaping adolescent behavior that is adaptive and in accordance with moral values.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study on the influence of the intensity of religious activities and the social environment on juvenile delinquency in tahfiz program students *in the early adolescence* phase, it can be concluded as follows. First, the intensity of religious activities has a significant effect on juvenile delinquency in students of the tahfiz program *in the early adolescence* phase. The results showed that the higher the intensity of student involvement in religious activities, the lower the level of juvenile delinquency shown. Religious activities play a role in strengthening self-control, discipline, and

internalizing moral values in students so that they are able to suppress the tendency of deviant behavior. Second, the social environment has a positive relationship with juvenile delinquency, but partially does not have a significant effect. These findings show that the social environment still has the potential to influence adolescent behavior, but in tahfiz program students this influence has not become a dominant factor due to the strengthening of religious character and relatively strong moral control in the tahfiz education environment. Third, the intensity of religious activities and the social environment simultaneously had a significant effect on juvenile delinquency in students of the tahfiz program *in the early adolescence phase*. These results suggest that adolescents' behavior is influenced by a combination of internal and external factors. The intensity of religious activities functions as a strengthening of internal social control, while the social environment is a social learning medium that can influence individual behavior through interaction with peers. Overall, this study emphasizes that strengthening religious activities and the formation of a positive social environment are important factors in efforts to prevent juvenile delinquency in the *early adolescence phase*. Therefore, synergy between schools, families, and the social environment is needed in building religious character, self-control, and adaptive social behavior in adolescents from an early age.

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