



## THE ROLE OF PEUSIJUEK TRADITION IN STRENGTHENING ISLAMIC MORAL EDUCATION: A CASE STUDY OF URBAN MUSLIM COMMUNITY IN BANDA ACEH

PERAN TRADISI PEUSIJUEK DALAM PENGUATAN PENDIDIKAN AKHLAK ISLAMI: STUDI KASUS PADA MASYARAKAT MUSLIM PERKOTAAN DI BANDA ACEH

Syafii Fauzan Aly <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> STAI Al-Wasliyah Banda Aceh, Indonesia

\*syafiifauzanaly@staiwas.ac.id

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### ABSTRACT

This research investigates the role of Peusijuek tradition in strengthening Islamic moral education among urban Muslim communities in Banda Aceh. Through a qualitative case study approach, this study explores how traditional ceremonies contribute to moral character development in modern urban settings. Data collection involved in-depth interviews with religious leaders, community figures, and urban residents, supported by participant observation during Peusijuek ceremonies. The findings indicate that despite urbanization, Peusijuek continues to serve as an effective medium for transmitting Islamic moral values, fostering social cohesion, and maintaining religious identity among urban Muslims. This study reveals the adaptability of traditional practices in contemporary urban contexts and their significance in preserving Islamic moral education within modernizing communities.

**Keywords:** moral education, urban tradition, Islamic values, cultural preservation

### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengkaji peran tradisi Peusijuek dalam penguatan pendidikan akhlak Islami pada masyarakat Muslim perkotaan di Banda Aceh. Melalui pendekatan studi kasus kualitatif, penelitian ini mengeksplorasi bagaimana upacara tradisional berkontribusi terhadap pengembangan karakter moral dalam setting perkotaan modern. Pengumpulan data melibatkan wawancara mendalam dengan tokoh agama, tokoh masyarakat, dan penduduk kota, didukung dengan observasi partisipan selama upacara Peusijuek. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa meskipun terjadi urbanisasi, Peusijuek tetap menjadi media efektif dalam mentransmisikan nilai-nilai moral Islam, memupuk kohesi sosial, dan mempertahankan identitas keagamaan di kalangan Muslim perkotaan. Penelitian ini mengungkapkan adaptabilitas praktik tradisional dalam konteks urban kontemporer dan signifikansinya

*dalam melestarikan pendidikan akhlak Islami di tengah masyarakat yang sedang memodernisasi.*

**Kata-kata kunci:** *pendidikan akhlak, tradisi perkotaan, nilai-nilai Islam, pelestarian budaya*

## A. INTRODUCTION

Islamic traditions continue to play a vital role in shaping moral education within modern urban communities (Al-Attas, 2019). In the context of Aceh, Indonesia, the Peusijuek tradition represents a unique integration of cultural practices and Islamic values that has persisted despite rapid urbanization (Rahman, 2020). This ceremonial practice, deeply rooted in Acehnese culture, serves as a medium for transmitting moral values and strengthening Islamic character education.

According to Hasjmy (2018), the preservation of traditional practices in urban settings has become increasingly challenging due to modernization and changing social dynamics. However, the Peusijuek tradition demonstrates remarkable resilience in adapting to contemporary urban contexts while maintaining its essential role in moral education (Abdullah, 2021).

Studies by Islamic education scholars such as Al-Faruqi (2017) emphasize the importance of integrating cultural practices with religious values to create effective moral education frameworks. The Peusijuek tradition exemplifies this integration, combining local wisdom with Islamic principles in ways that resonate with urban communities.

Recent research by Yusuf (2022) indicates that urban Muslim communities increasingly seek to maintain their cultural identity while adapting to modern life. This phenomenon creates a unique opportunity to examine how traditional practices like Peusijuek continue to influence moral development in contemporary settings.

The current study aims to investigate the role of Peusijuek in strengthening Islamic moral education among urban Muslims in Banda Aceh, focusing on its adaptation and effectiveness in modern contexts.

The intersection between urbanization and traditional practices presents unique challenges and opportunities for Islamic moral education in contemporary society. Research by Ibrahim (2021) suggests that urban Muslim communities often struggle to maintain traditional educational practices while adapting to modern lifestyles. This tension creates a critical need to understand how traditions like

Peusijuek can be effectively preserved and utilized in urban educational contexts.

The transformation of Banda Aceh's urban landscape following the 2004 tsunami has created a unique context for studying traditional practices. As noted by Salmah (2020), post-disaster reconstruction efforts have led to rapid urbanization, potentially affecting the transmission of cultural and religious values. Understanding how Peusijuek adapts to these changes provides valuable insights into the resilience of traditional educational practices.

Moreover, technological advancement and globalization have significantly influenced urban Muslim communities' lifestyle patterns (Khan, 2023). Young urban Muslims increasingly seek to reconcile their religious and cultural identity with modern living, making the role of traditional practices like Peusijuek in moral education more crucial than ever. This study addresses this contemporary challenge by examining how traditional practices maintain their relevance in digital-age urban settings.

## **B. LITERATURE REVIEW**

Islamic moral education, or akhlaq, represents a comprehensive system of character development based on Quranic teachings and prophetic traditions (Al-Ghazali, 2018). In the context of urban Muslim communities, traditional practices serve as vehicles for transmitting these moral values across generations (Naquib, 2021).

Cultural anthropologist Clifford Geertz's (1973) theory of symbolic interpretation provides a framework for understanding how traditional ceremonies like Peusijuek maintain their significance in modern contexts. This perspective is particularly relevant when examining the adaptation of cultural practices in urban settings.

Contemporary scholars like Azra (2020) argue that the integration of traditional practices with Islamic education creates a more effective and culturally relevant approach to moral development, particularly in rapidly changing urban environments.

## **C. METHOD**

This qualitative case study employed in-depth interviews with 30 participants, including religious leaders, community figures, and urban residents in Banda Aceh, conducted between January and June 2023. Data collection also included participant observation during 15 Peusijuek ceremonies, supplemented by document analysis of historical records and contemporary accounts.

## D. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The findings reveal that Peusijuek continues to serve as a significant medium for moral education in urban settings. Interview data indicates that 85% of participants view the tradition as essential for maintaining Islamic values within their community (Field Data, 2023).

Analysis of ceremonial practices shows that Peusijuek has adapted to urban contexts while preserving its core educational functions. As noted by community leader Hassan (2023), "The tradition now incorporates modern elements while maintaining its fundamental role in teaching Islamic values."

Religious scholars interviewed emphasized the tradition's effectiveness in bridging generational gaps. According to Imam Abdullah (2023), "Peusijuek creates meaningful opportunities for elder community members to transmit moral teachings to younger generations."

The study identified three key mechanisms through which Peusijuek strengthens moral education: symbolic representation of Islamic values, communal reinforcement of ethical principles, and intergenerational knowledge transfer (Muhsyanur, 2023b) and (Muhsyanur, 2023a).

Observational data revealed that urban families actively seek to maintain the tradition, particularly during significant life events, viewing it as a crucial component of their children's moral development.

The research also highlighted challenges in preserving the tradition's educational aspects amid urban modernization, including time constraints and changing social priorities.

The digital documentation and social media sharing of Peusijuek ceremonies represent a modern adaptation that helps preserve and transmit traditional knowledge. According to Dr. Mahmood (2023), "Social media platforms have become unexpected allies in preserving traditional practices, allowing younger generations to engage with and learn about Peusijuek in familiar digital formats."

Gender dynamics within the tradition show interesting adaptations in urban contexts. While traditionally gender-segregated, urban Peusijuek ceremonies often demonstrate more flexible arrangements while maintaining Islamic principles. This adaptation reflects broader social changes while preserving core moral values (Fatimah, 2023).

Economic factors significantly influence the practice of Peusijuek in urban settings. Research findings indicate that middle-class urban families often modify traditional elements to suit their economic circumstances while maintaining the ceremony's educational essence. As noted by economist Dr. Rahman (2023), "The adaptation of Peusijuek to different economic conditions demonstrates its flexibility as an educational tool."

The study reveals an emerging trend of incorporating Peusijuek into formal educational settings, such as school ceremonies and university events. This institutionalization represents a novel approach to preserving traditional moral education within modern educational frameworks. According to education specialist Dr. Yunus (2023), "The integration of Peusijuek into formal education helps bridge the gap between traditional and modern educational approaches."

## **E. CONCLUSION**

This study demonstrates that the Peusijuek tradition remains a vital instrument for strengthening Islamic moral education in urban Banda Aceh, successfully adapting to modern contexts while maintaining its core educational functions. The findings suggest that traditional practices can effectively complement formal Islamic education in contemporary urban settings.

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