

The Role of Christian Religious Education and Character Education in Senior High School Grade XI: The Meaning of God's Renewal of Life in Adolescents' Responsibility in The Church

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ABSTRACT

The role of Christian Religious Education is to understand how the teachings of the Christian faith can help young people comprehend their roles in society and align their lifestyles with Christian beliefs. The research method employed is qualitative, involving the review of books and journals from various perspectives. The research findings indicate that religious education within the Christian tradition is crucial in assisting 11th-grade high school students in developing a strong sense of responsibility toward their environment and way of life. Christian religious education should promptly fulfill its responsibilities within the church, nurturing adolescents and renewing their lives in accordance with Christian values. Once renewed by God, these young individuals will demonstrate lives that are close to God. It is hoped that a creative and contextual approach will be employed.

Keywords: Christian Religious Education, New Life, Church

1. INTRODUCTION

Christian Religious Education (PAK) plays a crucial role in shaping the character and civic values of adolescents and youth. In today's global context, where democracy is a fundamental principle of national life, a strong understanding of democratic principles is essential for the younger generation.

In the context of democracy, PAK helps Christian adolescents and youth to understand and respect human rights, and to instill values such as honesty, justice, and tolerance. This, in turn, enables them to become active citizens who participate in and

contribute to the development of a better society.

This journal focuses on the role of PAK in developing democratic civic life among Christian adolescents and youth. The research aims to determine the extent to which PAK influences the development of democratic values and civic life among Christian adolescents and youth. The findings of this research can help enhance the effectiveness of PAK in fostering democratic civic life among Christian adolescents and youth.

By analyzing the role of PAK in developing democratic civic life, this study uses references from the Christian Scriptures, including Matthew 7:13-23; 22:16; Acts 16:17; Acts 15:14; Romans 9:17; and 1 Corinthians 3:15 as the theological foundation guiding this discussion. Through the exploration of these texts, it is hoped to reveal how PAK can make a significant contribution to forming a deep understanding of democratic principles, social responsibility, and inclusive citizenship among adolescents and youth. Thus, youth educated through PAK are expected to become agents of change who build a democratic and responsible society.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This study employs a qualitative approach, focusing on the analysis and review of texts. The data sources used are literature sources, which serve as the primary sources for obtaining text-related information pertinent to this research. The techniques used to gather textual data include reading, noting, and processing the research data to understand the role of Christian Religious Education (PAK) for Christian youth. Subsequently, the textual data regarding Christian Religious Education for Christian youth is presented based on supporting literature sources to gain a clear perspective from the standpoint of Christian Education.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Education, etymologically, is a translation of the English word 'education,' derived

from the Latin 'ducere,' meaning to lead or guide, combined with the prefix 'e,' meaning out. Thus, the fundamental meaning of education is an act of guiding out. In Greek, the term 'paedagogike' is used, a compound word from 'paes,' meaning 'I lead.' Thus, 'paedagogike' means 'I guide a child,' or a person whose job is to guide a child to a place of learning.

John Dewey explains that education is the process of forming fundamental intellectual and emotional capacities towards nature and fellow humans. Reussieu conceptualizes education as providing us with provisions not present in childhood but needed in adulthood. Zahara Idris also explains that education is a conscious effort to develop personality and abilities within and outside school throughout life. Campbell Wyckoff describes Christian Religious Education as an education that makes individuals aware of God and His love in Jesus Christ, enabling them to know their true selves, grow as children of God within Christian fellowship, fulfill their collective calling as disciples of Jesus in the world, and maintain Christian hope.

Considering various perspectives on education, it can be concluded that education is an effort by conscious adults to guide, train, teach, and instill values and fundamental life views, integrating physical, spiritual, individual, social, natural, and divine aspects through educational institutions, churches, and society. Christian Religious Education is thus a process of nurturing believers' minds with God's word under the Holy Spirit's guidance through various learning experiences, leading to progressive spiritual growth and deeper knowledge of God through dedication to Jesus Christ.

The Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) defines youth as young men and women who are future leaders, emphasizing the significant responsibility placed on them by society. Indonesian Law No. 40 of 2009 on Youth aims to strengthen the position and opportunities for every citizen aged 16 to 30 to develop their potential, capacity, self-actualization, and aspirations, providing legal protection and certainty for youth activities.

The concept of youth is not limited to age but includes psychological and political dimensions, highlighting the ideal position of youth as agents of change. Therefore,

Christian youth should receive special attention in Christian Religious Education to develop responsible, Christ-like character, participating as pioneers of change in their relationships with themselves, the church, society, and the nation.

The implementation of Christian Religious Education for Christian youth aims to develop self-awareness, God-awareness, fear of God, and competence in life's tasks. Specific goals include:

Cultivating awareness of God as a reality in human experience and fostering a personal relationship with Him.

Guiding growing individuals towards understanding and appreciating the personality, life, and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Promoting continuous and progressive development of Christ-like character.

Developing the ability and tendency to participate in and contribute constructively to social development.

Guiding individuals to build a life philosophy based on the Christian interpretation of life and the universe.

Encouraging participation in the church.

Allowing the assimilation of the best religious experiences as effective guidance for current experiences.

James D. Smart articulates the goal of Christian Religious Education as teaching so that God can work in the hearts of learners, making them convincing disciples in word and deed in the world. Werner C. Graendorf explains that the goal is to guide individuals at all developmental stages towards knowing and experiencing God's purposes and plans in Christ through contemporary education, equipping them for effective ministry. E. G. Homrighausen describes the goal as educating church members to become knowledgeable and skillful in matters of faith, responsibly serving God in the church and society.

In conclusion, Christian Religious Education significantly impacts the faith growth of Christian youth, preparing them as God's instruments for ministry and responsibility in

the church, society, nation, and state.

4. CONCLUSION

Through this Christian religious education, it is hoped that these adolescents can be guided and directed to be responsible in their church lives. God will play a role in renewing the lives of adolescents and youth through Christian religious education. Emphasizing the important role of Christian religious education in assisting God in renewing the lives of eleventh-grade high school students, with the ultimate goal of eleventh-grade high school students being responsible in the church and community. Christian religious education is considered a means to guide and direct eleventh-grade high school students in developing their responsibilities in the church through the renewal of life facilitated by God.

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