

# Establishment of Student Spirituality through Christian Religious Education

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**Abstract.** This study discusses the formation of student spirituality through Christian religious education. Instilling spirituality in students is important because they will become future leaders. Therefore, learning Christian religious education has an important role in shaping the character of students. This study aims to provide understanding to students through learning that Christian religious education can shape their spirituality. This research uses a literature review study method or literature review. The results of this study will analyze the learning of Christian religious education, spirituality and the formation of students' spirituality through Christian religious education.

**Keywords:** Spirituality; Christian Religious Education

## 1 Introduction

There are various factors that cause juvenile delinquency, and the most important of them is the lack of embedded religious values in the hearts of each person. This is because the values of these religious teachings are not applied in everyday life both by individuals and society (Khairi, 2020). Religious education has a very significant role in overcoming the occurrence of juvenile delinquency. Authentic Christian religious education actually achieves the process of knowledge construction and character and spiritual formation. Yoel Betakore explained that an authentic education should achieve a complete transformation of each student to a life change towards a better and positive direction, including aspects related to spiritual formation (Betakore, 2021).

The absence of good spirituality runs in all circles and age groups of people, including the younger generation and Christian students. In this case, the study of Christian Religious Education at the University of Indonesia related to the spirituality of Christian students, it was found that there were around 30% of students who had not shown a good spiritual life. For example, there are students who do not regularly and regularly do personal prayers and read the Bible, there are students who do not actively participate in worship on Sundays, students are not actively involved in church service activities, are often late in submitting assignments, do not care about others, rarely help/help others.

Referring to several studies relevant to this research, namely: (a) Fredik Melkias Boiliu and Meyva Polii said that parents have the first and foremost role in the formation of children's spirituality through roles as teachers, educators, companions, motivators, facilitators, counseling and friends (Boiliu, 2020). Agreeing with this, Syalam Hendky Hasugian and Johanes Waldes

Hasugian said that teachers have an important role in shaping students' spirituality through the teaching and learning process (Hasugian & Hasugian, 2021). Yornan Masinambow and Yosef Nasrani said that Christian education is a vital tool in shaping the spirituality of the millennial generation by building friendly relations and love for others (Masinambow & Nasrani, 2021). In previous research studies, it was found that the discussion of spirituality focused on children and students. In this case, parents and teachers play a role in shaping children's spirituality and their duties and responsibilities in the family and school. This study discusses the formation of spirituality in students through learning Christian education. The purpose of the research is to provide an understanding that lecturers in universities have a role in shaping students through the teaching and learning process and to provide understanding to students so that they not only understand Christian religious education in the classroom but also practice it in daily life such as reading the Bible, praying, being involved in service, helping and helping others and not falling into drug abuse.

## **2 Method**

This research uses the method of literature study which contains relevant theories related to the problem. The library study approach or library research is carried out by collecting data from various scientific works as research objects to find problems and in-depth critical studies of relevant library materials (Hadi, 2011). Literature review refers to ideas used in accordance with existing literature such as articles published in scientific journals so that ideas are in accordance with research (Sujarweni, 2014). This approach examines texts, books, and journals that are appropriate to the problem in this study. The data are taken from various national scientific journals and books. Data processing is carried out "*by searching for literature in scientific journals, textbooks, reading, comparing, describing*" and drawing conclusions.

## **3 Result and Discussion**

### **3.1 Christian Religious Education Learning**

Christian religious education is a teaching and learning process based on the Bible as a source of learning material content, aimed at guiding students to have authentic knowledge about the basic teachings of the Christian faith, and which has an impact on the process of spiritual formation and the character of Christ; students grow towards Christ, have new lives that glorify God, become salt and light of the world and become true witnesses and disciples of God (Boiliu, 2020). The principle that distinguishes Christian Religious Education from other education lies in the basis and source of Christian Religious Education itself, namely the Bible and the person of Jesus Christ. Christian religious education must guide students to have fellowship with Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit, and to have a spiritual life and character according to the teachings of the Christian faith contained in the Bible. If Christian Religious Education is not based on this principle, then it is not authentic Christian Religious Education (Joseph & Boiliu, 2021).

Christian Religious Education as part of learning and educational activities, has an important and significant role and function. To find out what the role of Christian Religious

Education is in the learning process, it is necessary to re-examine what the goals of Christian Religious Education are. Enklaar and Homrighausen explain the nature of Christian Religious Education is not only about intellectual knowledge of Bible truth, but also guides individual spiritual life and Christian behavior in daily social practice (Homrighausen, 2012). Martin Luther saw that Christian Religious Education played a role in facilitating members of the congregation in order to learn in an orderly and orderly manner so that they would be more aware of their sins and rejoice in the words of Jesus Christ which set them free as well as equipping them with sources of faith, especially the experience of praying, reading the Bible, so that they are able to serve others. and share responsibly in the Christian community (Robert R Boehlke, 2006). Augustine explained the role of Christian Religious Education, which is to lead students to cultivate spiritual life, open themselves to God's word, gain knowledge about God's deeds reported in the Bible and other readings, so that they will experience wisdom, fellowship with God, personal happiness, knowledge and understanding and ability to live as members of the church in a general society (Robert R Boehlke, 2006). From the explanation above, it can be seen how important Christian Religious Education is for believers. Christian Religious Education has a very significant role and function in shaping and building the spirituality and character and knowledge of believers. Through Christian Religious Education, believers experience personal encounters with God, grow toward Christ, and become church members who are responsible for revealing the image and likeness of God in the midst of social, national and state life.

### **3.2 Spirituality**

Everyone cannot be separated from the experience and life of spirituality, because basically all humans have the ability and awareness of their connection to the transcendent. Takwin said, all individuals have a spirituality that is unique and special to themselves, regardless of their religious orientation and beliefs. Spirituality must be placed in the context of the whole universe and the interconnectedness of the contents of this world. Spirituality goes beyond affiliation to a particular religion. Spirituality is a quality that can be attained even by those who do not believe in God. So, the human spiritual dimension is always trying to harmonize with the universe and answer questions about the infinite (Takwin, 2013).

Spirituality in a general sense is connectedness with the transcendent and being transformed by the transcendent. Spirituality is a daily lifestyle that is the fruit of our relationship with God. Relationship spirituality is our closeness or intimacy with God which is shown in the attitude of our lives to each other (Boiliu, 2020). Spirituality as a word that is widely used to describe attitudes, beliefs, actions. Christian spirituality, directed to the implementation of Christ's command to love God and others (Boiliu, 2020). Thus, a person's spirituality has a close relationship and impact on his relationship with God, oneself, others, and the universe. Spirituality is a person's connection with the transcendent / Divine, individual in nature where everyone has awareness and recognition of the existence of the Divine, cannot be separated from one's connectedness with the universe, and also has an impact on his relationships with others, namely how he is with the surrounding environment.

### **3.3 Formation of Student Spirituality**

The formation of student spirituality is important and becomes a lifelong journey of faith. Through learning Christian religious education, students will experience spiritual awakening, as an effort to make their spiritual journey in God not slow or stop. Therefore, in the process of forming spirituality, Christian students in higher education are serious things that must be done by educators through Christian religious education. this is as explained in (Galatians 5:16;

Ephesians 5:18) “*the believer's entire spiritual life involves dependence on and response to the indwelling Spirit of God.*” This means that the spiritual formation of students is an effort to build a new life in accordance with the fruit of the Holy Spirit and the character of Christ. Through discipline, a mindful reliance on the promptings of the indwelling Holy Spirit, believers are privileged to participate in God's renewing work within them (Masinanbow & Nasrani, 2020).

Apart from serious efforts and efforts in shaping the spirituality of students, they depend on learning Christian religious education. because, Christian religious education plays a very important role in helping the process of forming student spirituality. This shows that educators in teaching do not only focus on student cognitive, but how to teach, educate, assist, motivate and control students in applying Christian values in everyday life (Tefbana, Betakore, & Boiliu, 2022). In other words, one's spirituality is related to the quality of relationships, and this quality can be formed in an educational process (Cully, 2012). The formation of student spirituality that needs to be considered is getting used to reading the Bible every day, praying every day, being involved in ministry, doing college assignments, not spreading hoaxes, respecting differences, helping or helping others, and not being individual.

#### 4 Conclusion

Based on the discussion on the formation of student spirituality through religious education, it can be said that learning Christian religious education has an important role in student spirituality. Therefore, it is necessary to have the right approach in learning to make it easier for students to understand and practice every Christian religious education learning material delivered by the lecturer. This can be seen from learning that does not only focus on cognitive but touches on the affective and psychomotor domains. The most important thing about Christian religious education is how to learn to apply what is already there in everyday life, such as praying, reading the Bible, helping or others, not spreading hoaxes through social media, respecting religious, ethnic and cultural differences.

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