**Work Engagement among Taman Pendidikan Al-Qur’an’s Teachers: The Role of Religiosity**

Hastinia Apriasari*, Yuli Fajar Susetyo  
Faculty of Psychology, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia

**Abstract:** Work engagement is essential for non-formal education teachers, including Taman Pendidikan Al-Quran (TPA) teachers. Work engagement will improve the work performance of TPA teachers. The religiosity of TPA teachers is expected to play a key role in increasing work engagement. This study aims to examine the contribution of religiosity toward work engagement. The hypothesis proposed in this study is that religiosity can predict the level of work engagement. The subjects of this study are the TPA teachers, consisting of 84 females and 70 males who have a year of teaching experience minimally. The instrument used to collect the data is the Utrecht Work Engagement Scale (UWES) which has been modified, and the religiosity scale as well. Data are analyzed by simple regression analysis. Religiosity plays a role in 30.4% of teachers’ work engagement. In addition, the dimension of religiosity has the most significant role in the work engagement of the TPA teachers. The result shows that religiosity can predict work engagement for the TPA teachers.

**INTRODUCTION**

*Taman Pendidikan Al-Qur’an* (TPA) is an Islamic educational institution that organizes Qur’anic learning activities (Badan Koordinasi TKA-TPA, 2010). The TPA implementation process is managed by teachers called *ustadz/ustadzah*. They carry out the duties with full dedication. Even, they usually take the time to teach as the voluntary. Allocating time, energy, and resources to organize the landfill activities is a challenging task. Studies related to work engagement in voluntary are necessary to do. Voluntary work has a mission and goals to be achieved although it is not profit-oriented (Selander, 2015).

Ideally, the TPA teachers need the work engagement in carrying out their roles. In fact, the work engagement among the teachers will bring a positive impact on the students’ engagement in the learning process (Cardwell, 2011). Teachers with the work engagement have better work performance in the teaching practice (Bakker & Bal, 2010). Teachers’ work engagement also can keep them committed to do their own duty and responsibility (Albdour & Altarawneh, 2014). Particularly, in the context of voluntary work, the work engagement can encourage individuals to be committed and have satisfaction in carrying out their work (Vecina et al., 2012).

The preliminary survey shows that the TPA teacher's erratic presence due to personal busyness and lack of teacher resources is the dominant answer. Apart from such results of the preliminary survey, research with a sample of the TPA
teachers states that the main problem faced is the lack of teacher resources (Basri, 2018; Hamer et al., 2020). The turnover of teachers causes a shortage of teacher resources. Turnover is related to low work engagement. That is in line with the meta-analysis study conducted by Halbesleben (2010) which explains that individuals who have a high work engagement tend to have less intention to change their jobs.

Other studies also mention that the low quality of the teacher's teaching process due to low interest in improving the quality of teaching, learning activities that tend to be monotonous, and the lack of teacher initiative (Supriatno, Maya, & Priyatna, 2020). Teachers with high work engagement are more innovative in learning process and have professional development as well (Bakker & Bal, 2010). In addition, the teachers also carry out the task with enthusiasm.

Lohman explains that the problems arising in non-formal education teachers are the lack of time in doing learning and the lack of appreciation for the learning process that has been carried out (Lohman, 2000). Apart from those, incompetent teachers also become the other main problem faced by the TPA (Mulyono & Kresnaini, 2016). For further implication, lack of appreciation and competence of teachers can influence the work engagement of teachers (Bakker & Bal, 2010).

Conceptually, work engagement is more often defined as a positive, active, and satisfying work stage characterized by vigor, dedication, and absorption (Schaufeli & Bakker, 2004). In carrying out work, individuals are very enthusiastic and energetic (Halbesleben, 2010). Enthusiasm and high energy are important for individuals in the voluntary work (Selander, 2015). The study conducted by Vecina et al., (2012) proved that in the context of voluntary work, there are similarities in the dimensions of work engagement with other works, namely the dimensions of vigor, dedication, and absorption. That research confirms that the concept of work engagement can be applied in voluntary work.

The elements of work engagement consist of three things: vigor, dedication, and absorption. Vigor is characterized by mental resilience, persistence, and high energy levels while working. Dedication is solid and enthusiastic involvement in a job and being proud and challenged in every job. Absorption is characterized by concentration and enjoyment, feeling that time passes quickly when working (Schaufeli et al., 2006).

The explanation above illustrates the importance of work engagement for the TPA teachers. However, research needs to examine predictors that affect the work engagement of the TPA teachers. To make sure, the researchers also conducted the preliminary survey to determine what kinds of characteristics may play a role in determining the TPA teachers' work engagement. The results of preliminary survey showed that there are some Islamic guidances in determining TPA teachers’ work engagement, one of which is the afterlife orientation that becomes the main motivation for most participants. The orientation of hereafter such as intending teaching activities as a form of worship to seek the reward of the jariyah and Allah's pleasure. In the concept of psychology, this term is referred to as religiosity.

In the study of psychology, the terms religiosity and spirituality are often mutually associated with one another. Cook (2004) argued that spirituality is related to a transcendental relationship with a supreme being. In comparison, religiosity is when individuals adhere to certain religious beliefs (Booth, 2012). Even, Burkhart (2008) stated that spirituality can be manifested without any religion. From those explanations, this research focuses on the studies of religiosity. It is necessary in this study because it plays a determinant role in motivation a person to behave and act.
this sense, the concept of religiosity is helpful to reveal the TPA teachers’ work engagement.

By and large, a religiosity is a religious individual’s relationship with God and is expressed by the religious teachings and doctrines as its sources and references in everyday life (Huber & Huber, 2012). More specifically, Glock and Stark as quoted by Holdcroft, (2006) identified that the religiosity, at least, has five dimensions, namely belief, ritual, experience, intellectual, and consequence.

Related to the work engagement, several studies have discussed the role of religiosity on it. Research conducted by Tennakoon & Lasanthika (2018) showed that the religiosity positively correlates with the work engagement. Meanwhile, the other study found that individuals who are committed to their religion are more willing to engage in social work (Harding et al., 2013).

In the job demands and resources (JD-R) model, the driving factors that play a role in the work engagement are personal resources and job resources. Personal resources include self-esteem, self-efficacy, and optimism (Bakker, 2011; Hobfoll et al., 2003). According to Bakker (2011), personal resources could be the pivotal factor for the work engagement. In this case, religiosity can also function as a personal resource (Brien et al., 2021; Taylor et al., 2014; Weiß & Süß, 2019). Weiß & Süß (2019) argued that religiosity is a unique personal resource as an influential factor for the work engagement.

In another study with civil servant subjects, for instance, the religiosity was positively correlated with the level of employee involvement when working (Ramaditya & Nazzario, 2020; Saleh et al., 2020). Spiritual resources related to the concept of religiosity in religious workers can be a significant predictor of the work engagement (Bickerton et al., 2014). The practical religiosity, altruism, and belief significantly affect employee’s work engagement (Brien et al., 2021).

Previous studies just studied the work engagement with subjects who work as civil servants (PNS) and employees in the industrial or banking sectors. Civil servants and employees usually get basic benefits in the process of their work. In contrast to civil servants and employees, the TPA teachers carry out their role as a form of social work or voluntary (Basri, 2018). Different types of work between the TPA teachers and civil servants or employees make this research necessary to do. This study also examines the work engagement of the teachers in the context of non-formal education. Previous studies have not yet analyzed certain variables as predictors of the work engagement in non-formal education teachers.

From the previous explanation as above-mentioned, this study aims to determine and examine the roles of the religiosity on the TPA teachers’ work engagement. The hypothesis proposed in this study is that religiosity can predict work engagement in the TPA teachers.

**METHOD**

The sample selection uses convenience sampling in which the researcher chose respondents only based on their presence and willingness to participate. In addition, it also uses a purposive sampling technique that selects subjects based on the specific characteristics or traits determined before data collection (Etikan et al., 2016). The characteristics of the respondents determined are the TPA teachers who have, at least, a year of teaching experiences in Yogyakarta area. One year of experience is used as the respondent's criteria because it involves the stability of work engagement (Schaufeli et al., 2006).

The researchers received research ethics approval from the Ethics Commission of the Faculty of Psychology UGM. The next stage is the testing of measuring instruments who involve 77
participants. Researchers carried out tests of measuring instruments to evaluate the psychological scale that would be used in the study. Content validation tests were conducted to modify the work engagement scale to suit the context of the subject. Based on the content validation and scale testing results, it can be concluded that the scale has met the rules and can be accepted psychometrically. The data retrieval was carried out online by using Google Forms, whose links have been distributed to the TPA teachers in the Yogyakarta through WhatsApp groups and personal chat.

![Image](image_url)

**Figure 1.** Research Procedure

The measurement of work engagement uses the UWES (Utrecht Work Engagement Scale) scale (Schaufeli & Bakker, 2004). This scale has been adapted by Nurdiyani (2012) and modified by the researchers to suit the context of the subject. The term “work” is replaced with “teaching TPA” to adjust the participant context. There are 14 favorable items consisting of three aspects: vigor, dedication, and absorption. Based on experiments conducted by the researchers on 77 subjects, this scale has a reliability of 0.916 with a correlation coefficient that moves from 0.471 to 0.824. Item responses use a 0-6 likert scale starting from 0 = never, 1 = almost never, 2 = rarely, 3 = sometimes, 4 = often, 5 = very often, and 6 = always.

The measurement of religiosity uses a religiosity scale. The religiosity scale in this study uses the religiosity scale compiled by Hestiningrum (2011) and modified by Muslikhah (2011) based on the dimensions of Glock and Stark. This scale consists of 18 items (10 favorable items and 8 unfavorable items) with five dimensions: experiential, ritualistic, ideological, intellectual, and consequential. Based on experiments tested on 77 subjects, this scale has a reliability of 0.843 with a correlation coefficient that moves from 0.301 - 0.676.

The analysis technique in this study used descriptive and inferential statistics with the help of IBM SPSS 21 software. The assumption verification was conducted through normality and linearity analysis. Hypothesis testing was carried out by using a simple linear analysis technique.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

This study aims to determine and examine the roles of religiosity on the work engagement in the TPA teachers. The hypothesis proposed is that religiosity can predict the teacher work engagement. The results of this hypothesis test point out that religiosity can predict the work engagement of the TPA teachers.

This study involved 154 participants with an age range of 18-59 years. Those participants consist of 45.5 % male and 54.5 % female. Then, the participants based on teaching experience were 31.2 % (1-5 years), 26 % (5-10 years), 19.5 % (10-15 years), 13.6 % (15-20 years), and 9.7 % (more than 20 years).

The descriptive analysis was conducted before testing the hypothesis. The descriptive analysis of variable data can be seen in Table 1.
Table 1. Variable Data Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Maks</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work Engagement</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>73.64</td>
<td>8.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religiosity</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>80.92</td>
<td>5.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The categorization of data used five categories: very low, low, medium, high, and very high. The results showed that most of the participants in the study had the low work engagements (14.29 %), medium (62.34 %), and high (20.78 %). There were 96 (62.34 %) participants who had moderate work engagement and 4 (2.60 %) participants had very low work engagement. The next categorization was religiosity with low (13.64 %), moderate (65.58 %), and high (18.18 %). There were 101 (65.58 %) participants who had moderate religiosity and 4 (2.60 %) participants had very low religiosity.

Then, the researchers calculated the average value of each dimension of the religiosity and work engagement variable. The average value on the highest work engagement dimension was the dedication dimension with a value of 32.81. The next was the vigor dimension with a value of 26.19, and the absorption dimension (14.64). In addition, from the five dimensions of religiosity, it was known that the highest average value was the consequence dimension (21.49). The next is the ideological dimension (19.86), the intellectual dimension (13.58), and the experiential dimension (13.51). The smallest average value is the ritual dimension with a value of 12.48.

Furthermore, the assumption is verified by testing normality and linearity. The normality test used One Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov, which showed a significance value of 0.168 (p > 0.05). The results of the test showed that the data were normally distributed. Thus, linearity testing was carried out to determine the linear relationship between the two variables, the results of which showed a significant level of p = 0.000 (p < 0.05). In addition, the significance level of deviation from linearity was 0.797 (p > 0.05). Based on the linearity test, religiosity had a linear relationship with the work engagement.

The next step was to test the hypothesis using simple linear regression analysis. Simple linear regression analysis was conducted to determine and examine the magnitude of the role of religiosity in predicting the teachers work engagement. The results of the analysis in Table 2 showed the R2 value of 0.304. It means that the religiosity variable has a role in the work engagement variable of 30.4 %, while other variable outside this study explain the other 69.6 %.

Table 2. Simple Regression Analysis with Enter Method

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>R²</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Religiosity</td>
<td>0.552</td>
<td>0.304</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Engagement</td>
<td>0.552</td>
<td>0.304</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The regression coefficient value of the religiosity variable can be seen in Table 3 with the line equation Y = 8.950 + 0.779X. This equation shows that every increase in the score of religiosity will increase work engagement by 0.799. If the religiosity variable is omitted, a work engagement score of 8.950 will be obtained.

Table 3. Summary of Coefficients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Unstandardized Coefficients</th>
<th>Standardized Coefficients</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Std. Error</td>
<td>Beta</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Constant)</td>
<td>8.950</td>
<td>7.956</td>
<td>0.552</td>
<td>1.125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religiosity</td>
<td>0.799</td>
<td>0.098</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.152</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional analysis was carried out to see differences in teacher religiosity and work engagement in terms of gender using an independent sample t-test which can be seen in Table 4. The results showed that there was no significant difference between work engagement and religiosity for both males and females (p > 0.05).

| Table 4. Results of Analysis of Independent Sample T-test |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Variabel    | Gender      | M (Mean)    | P (t-test)  |
| Work        | Male        | 74.47       | 0.227       |
| Engagement  | Female      | 72.94       |             |
| Religiosity | Male        | 81.24       | 0.785       |
|             | Female      | 80.65       |             |

The researcher also analyzed the role of each aspect of religiosity on the work engagement variable, which can be seen in Table 5. The results of multiple linear regression analysis showed that the consequences aspect significantly impacted work engagement (p < 0.05). The practical contribution of the consequence aspect is 15.5%. Meanwhile, the ideological, intellectual, ritual, and experience aspects play a minor role. Thus, the ideological, intellectual, ritual, and experiential aspects will predict work engagement if carried out together with the consequences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 5. Analysis of Religiosity Aspect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Constant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ritual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consequence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further research related to the job demands and resources (JD-R) model by Xanthopoulou et al. (2009) found that the relationship between resources and work engagement also moves in a cycle. When job resources are available to individuals, they are more capable of creating personal resources. Meanwhile, individuals with personal resources will be better able to create job resources (Xanthopoulou et al., 2009). Bakar et al., (2016) also explained that based on the JD-R model, religious activities such as religious training and religious worship in the workplace are part of job resources. These resources can increase the development of individual religiosity as a personal resource.

Learning activities at the TPA are a form of religious activity. Existing religious activities include teaching the Qur'an, and worship together with the introduction of basic religious knowledge. This activity is expected to increase the
development of religiosity as a teacher's personal resource. The resources owned can play a key role in the teacher work engagement. The teachers with work engagements tend to be easier to identify and activate job and personal resources (Xanthopoulou et al., 2009).

The TPA teachers also carry out their roles voluntarily. In volunteer work, religiosity has an important role. Various studies have stated that both private and public religiosity is closely related to voluntary activities and even predicts more excellent voluntary activities (Paxton et al., 2014). Research by van Tienen et al., (2011) also supports how religiosity plays an influential role in formal and informal voluntary activities.

The learning process carried out by the TPA teachers is not only to pursue economic values. The value of religiosity that is held becomes a guide for teachers in carrying out their roles. Teachers carry out work as a part of worship. That aligns with Islamic values to make work a form of worship without expecting material rewards (Ishak & Osman, 2016).

In the Indonesian context, religion cannot be separated from individual life. Research by Febriansyah, (2019) found that religiosity has a vital role in the employee engagement in Indonesia. Individuals who view religion as an integral part of their lives tend to have a holistic view of life. They will include faith in every aspect of life, including in the workplace.

The results of work engagement categorization also show that the majority of teachers are in moderate condition. This can be influenced by other variables not examined in this study. These results can also indicate that the teacher work engagement is important to improve by considering job demand and job resource models. Job resources that can be increased in the context of TPA are things that can stimulate individual growth, learning and development (Bakker & Demerouti, 2007). However, as many as 20.78% of teachers are in a condition of the high work engagement. This shows that the teachers have positive work enthusiasm, high work performance, and good competence in carrying out their roles (Sasmoko et al., 2014).

In this study, there are differences in the value of R square from previous studies. Research by Tennakoon & Lasanthika, (2018) with 115 individual subjects working in Sri Lanka shows the R square value of 87.6%. In this study, the value of R square is 30.4%. Meanwhile, the research of Saleh et al., (2020) related to the role of religiosity and work engagement of civil servants in Indonesia showed an R square value of 29.8%. The value of R square in the research of Saleh et al., (2020) is not much different from this study. The context of the subject and culture may make the differences and similarities in the R square value of this study with previous studies.

Calculating the average value of religiosity also indicates that the consequence dimension has the largest average value. In this study, the consequence dimension is also the most influential on work engagement. Dimensions of consequences include social behaviors driven by the teachings or views of life of the religion adopted. The values taught in the scriptures, the faith manifested in actions, and the individual's relationship with God will help to carry out voluntary work (Petrovic et. al., 2021). The study found that religiosity is related to altruism both in attitude and action (Nachiappan et al., 2018; Pessi, 2011).

Other religious values that can encourage social behavior include an attitude of responsibility and a consistent attitude in carrying out their duties. Responsibility means completing tasks properly, while consistent or istikamah means carrying out tasks on an ongoing basis (Ishak & Osman, 2016). The attitude of responsibility and consistency that is
owned will encourage the teachers to spend time, energy, and thoughts on the administration of TPA.

The results of religiosity data categorization showed that the majority of subjects were at a moderate level. It is because the dimension of religiosity in this study is included in individual religiosity. Van Tienen et al., (2011) argued that the dimensions such as intellectual, experience, and ritual are related to the religious values held by each individual (individual religiosity). In the social work or service, an individual involvement in religious communities is important (Van Tienen et al., 2011).

This study also made additional analysis to see differences in religiosity and work engagement by gender. The results show that there is no difference in religiosity and work engagement by gender. This result is different from previous research which found that there are differences in religiosity and work engagement based on gender (Roźnowski & Zarzycka, 2020). The difference in the results of this study could be due to differences in the characteristics of the research participants. The participants in this study were the TPA teachers who taught religious education, so diversity becomes an inseparable dimension in carrying out their work. Knotts (2003) explains that individuals who have a stronger religious commitment will find it easier to connect their faith and work.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the religiosity of the TPA teachers plays a significant role in the work engagement. Religiosity shows as many as 30.4% of the teacher work engagement. In addition, the dimension of the consequences of the religiosity variable is the dimension that has the most significant role in the work engagement of TPA teachers. Therefore, the hypothesis in this study is accepted. The results of the additional analysis also showed that there was no difference in religiosity and work engagement in terms of gender.

For future research, it is expected to include other variables that may play a role in teacher work engagement in the TPA. For example, the next researcher could include variables from the factors driving work engagement in non-formal education, such as personality factors, self-efficacy, initiative, and love of the profession. Thus, the researchers need to consider an individual and collective religiosity as a variable for work engagement. In addition, it is necessary to examine teachers' work engagement with subjects from other non-formal education teachers in Indonesia. It will help enrich the study of the work engagement for non-formal education teachers.

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