

# Spiritual Rituals in Creating the Morality of Indonesian Students in Sakarya Turkey

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## Abstract

This research examines the spiritual rituals pioneered by the Indonesian Student Association (PPI) in the city of Sakarya, Turkey. This study aims to determine the impact and role of spiritual rituals on the condition of the morality of Indonesian students in the city of Sakarya, Turkey. This research is categorized as field research. Data collection was carried out using observation and interview techniques, while data analysis using descriptive-qualitative techniques. This study found that spiritual rituals initiated by the Indonesian Student Association (PPI) can create intimacy between Indonesian students who are in Sakarya Turkey. Spiritual rituals are performed once every two weeks. This activity begins with reading the Qur'an, prayers, and scientific discussions, and closes with dinner together. This activity was carried out in turns at the residence of Indonesian students in Sakarya. In addition, it was also found that spiritual rituals had a positive impact on the morality of Indonesian students at Sakarya such as; the absence of sects between students, the disappearance of gaps between social groups, and the creation of a space for discussion and friendship between students.

**Keywords:** Spiritual Rituals, Student Morality, Turki.

## Introduction

Turkey is a country with a European standard education system which is an attraction for Indonesian students to continue their education in Turkey. Especially Sakarya University which is one of the State Universities in the city of Turkey with the number of international students continues to increase from year to year, especially in Indonesia, because apart from the Government Scholarship Program facilitated by the Turkish Government, there are also many Education Agents from Indonesia to take the opportunity to do business and become an intermediary for Indonesians to study in Turkey. Data released by the Indonesian Student Union (PPI) branch of the Sakarya Region of Turkey, there are six hundred and fifty students in 2021 (*Interview with Aqshalkhanh Barraq Hamza, Chef of PPI Sakarya, n.d.*). A large number of Indonesian students in Sakarya Turkey does not rule out the possibility of moral deviations by students. The moral deviation that often occurs is the loss of empathy between students, indifference to the suffering of others, and prioritizing group interests, even fellow Indonesian students do not greet each other and the feeling of kinship among fellow students fades (*Interview with Annisa Luthfi Aulia Student of Economic, Sakarya University, n.d.*).

The complexity of the problems that occur among Indonesian students, as described above, sparked the author to conduct scientific research on the role of the spiritual ritual program conducted by the Sakarya branch of the Indonesian Student Association in fostering the morality of Indonesian students in Sakarya, Turkey. This activity is in the form of an Indonesian student association to conduct studies, shower the spirit or recite the Koran. Spiritual studies aim to be a forum for Indonesian students in Sakarya to cultivate a spiritual side or strengthen faith and this activity was pioneered by the PPI Sakarya Spiritual division in 2014 until now (*Interview with Saffana Aulia Rahma, Student of Ilahiyat. Sakarya University, n.d.*).

Much research on morality has been carried out in Indonesia, such as Sulayman's research on inculcating morality through Islamic education for early childhood. This research found that early childhood morality education should have been carried out by every family. Henry Nurpristiwi also researched building student character with moral education (Sulaiman, 2022). He found that good character greatly influences student achievement both academically and non-academically. Similar research was also conducted by regarding character-building education in shaping human personality (Nurpratiwi, 2021). This study concludes that character building is necessary to develop a human personality.

Yohan Yusuf Arifin also examines the five moral attitudes in Confucianism and their implementation in life. This study found that good morality will lead a person to a noble character, improve himself, and be responsible for all his obligations (Yusuf Arifin, 2017). Other studies have also found that religious education is very helpful for students in increasing religious knowledge and practice of worship, both obligatory and sunnah worship, which in the end is expected to shape the overall morality of the students' personalities so that students have sufficient provisions in themselves not to be influenced by other things. negative in the era of globalization (Abidah, 2013).

## **Research methods**

This research is field research conducted at the Sakarya branch of the Indonesian Student Union (PPI), Turkey. Data collection in this research was carried out by direct observation and in-depth interviews with PPI administrators and several

Indonesian students who were studying in the city of Sakarya, Turkey. Meanwhile, in analyzing the data used a descriptive-qualitative technique, which is to describe the data in detail using words or narration (Gunawan, 2013).

### **Profile of the Indonesian Student Association (PPI) in Sakarya Turkey**

The Sakarya Region Indonesian Student Association (PPI Sakarya) is a branch of the Turkish PPI for the city of Sakarya. This Student Association was established on November 22, 2014. During its development in 2014, there was a stronger dynamic among Indonesian students in Sakarya. There are strong desires to contribute more to the introduction of Indonesia in Sakarya and also the desire to be able to actualize in a variety of academic and organizational activities. So that year an idea emerged to strengthen the presence of Indonesian students in Sakarya in the official student association forum (*Sekilas PPI Sakarya – Mubes PPI Sakarya*, 2012). Since 2014 until now PPI Sakarya has continued to experience renewal and change of leaders and in 2021 there will be a work program from the religious division of PPI Sakarya, namely a spiritual work program. This spiritual activity is an activity held by Indonesian students at Sakarya to become a forum for friendship between fellow Indonesian students.

PPI Sakarya has eight divisions with different work programs, namely secretarial and treasury divisions, social and public relations divisions, academic studies and strategic performance divisions, interest and talent divisions, women's divisions, and spiritual divisions. Each PPI Sakarya division has a different focus and this study, the researchers focused more on the spiritual division. The purpose of the spiritual division is to serve as a facility for Indonesian children in Sakarya so that they can strengthen their faith and maintain their faith properly (*Interview with Imam Tatung, Management of the PPI Sakarya Spiritual Division, Sakarya University Student*, n.d.).

Turkiye State is a State of Scurricularism which separates Religion and Science. The mix of cultures and diversity makes the emergence of schools that are contrary to the Koran. Making PPI Sakarya administrators concerned about the faith of Indonesian students in Sakarya. That's why a spiritual division was created to maintain the faith of Indonesian students in Turkiye. By carrying out many spiritual ritual activities such as reciting the Koran together, tilawatil Quran, Islamic studies,

and remembering Islamic holidays. In the month of Ramadhan, many Islamic activities are held such as taking turns reading the Koran, khaman the Koran, breaking fast together, and opening zakat fitra donations. Bakan Eid also held a Quran donation in collaboration with PPI Turkiye for students who wanted to make sacrifices (*Interview with Muhammad Salman, Sakarya PPI Advocacy Division and Students Majoring in Information Systems, n.d.*). From the data collected, the researcher intends to examine more deeply the Spiritual Division Management, a total of ten administrators consisting of men and women to make observations about the effectiveness of the spiritual program implemented at Sakarya University.

### **Spiritual Program and Its Impact on Student Morality**

The spiritual program in 2021 is chaired by Arfan Shodiq who is a 2021 Batch student and a student of the Department of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering at Sakarya University. He said that in 2021 he had created seven joint spiritual division work programs with his team and the activities had been carried out until the end of his tenure on December 21. Among its most successful work programs is the “Sapa Hati PPI Sakarya” program which managed to gather all Indonesian people in Sakarya and make a big gathering event for all PPI Sakarya Forces and Indonesians living in Sakarya. In this event, PPI Sakarya intends to eliminate the gap between groups and build friendship between PPI Sakarya members and the Turkiye Community. This activity was carried out in August 2022. And the participants who attended were around 300 Indonesian residents in Turkiye. The agenda is greetings, cultural performances, competitions, spiritual cleansing, and eating together. All Indonesian people gather there to greet and get acquainted so that they Indonesian people do not feel alone even though they live abroad (*Interview with Arfan Sahdiq, Head of the PPI Sakarya Spiritual Division 2021-2022, 2022*).

Seven spiritual activities have been carried out, one of which is YUKSAN (Yasinan and Salawatan Activities) where Indonesian students hold gatherings for a month twice every Friday night. The place moves around in the apartments of the student taking turns or those who voluntarily lend their homes and provide banquets between students. In this association, Indonesian students conduct recitation and joint prayer. In addition, after official events, they often discuss, tell stories and share experiences to create intimacy between Indonesian students at Sakarya. Men and

women carry out activities separately (*Interview with Affan D.Ace, Sakarya Student Majoring in Social Affairs, n.d.*).

For men in one of the men's apartments with the same activities, women are like that too. Sometimes Indonesian students also hold activities such as the celebration of the Prophet's birthday and Islamic holidays together. The spiritual activities held by PPI Sakarya are considered effective in providing a space for introduction among fellow Indonesian students in Sakarya. Apart from that, there are also Friday buster activities, namely posting quotes from scholars or the hadith of the Apostle on PPI Sakarya social media. So that social media users can be motivated and maintain their spirituality and become a reminder for fellow Turkiye students who are studying (*Interview with Arfan Sahuqih, Spiritual Leader, n.d.*).

With the number of Indonesian students increasing and increasing every year, it is increasingly difficult to get to know one another and requires more intimate communication. By holding spiritual activities organized by PPI Sakarya, relations between students are getting better and fostering intimacy and faith for adherents of the lost religion of Islam, even though the number of Indonesian students is too many, totaling approximately 650 students. PPI Sakarya hopes that the Spiritual activity will become a symbol of guarding the faith of the students. It is undeniable that this is not an easy thing for the administrators of the Spiritual Division, and PPI Sakarya breaks down the work program from the simplest to the most spectacular. Starting from reciting Yasin together to the large-scale gathering that was held in 2021, namely "Sapa Hati" (*Interview with Fildiza Spiritual Division Administrator, Sakarya University Student, n.d.*).

Spirituality also has special activities in the month of Ramadan and on Hari Raya. As with the rotating tadasana, each child who takes part in the activity must take turns reading the Al-Quran to increase their confidence to appear in public. There is also one day one juz Khotaman Al-Quran activity. Taking turns to open together, pray tarawih together and open zakat fitra donations. On Eid al-Adha, there is also a Quran animal donation program for students who can afford it (*Interview with Asiah Aslah Salsabila, Administrator of the Spiritual Division. Sakarya University Student, n.d.*).

PPI Sakarya especially the Spiritual division strives for the best so that Indonesian students in Sakarya can maintain their Aqidah by participating in many religious activities. Because religious activities are useful as a fortress for each individual to be able to do good and keep themselves well-behaved. Many moral cases that occur in Sakarya are due to a lack of familiarity. One of them is that there are sect or caste differences in the association of social groups. This is because the Indonesian students in Sakarya are on average under the education agents. One Education agent can be more than 10 to 20 children. The impact is that the children of these education agents only want to hang out with their fellow agents. So the spiritual division tries to divide these sects into one scholarly assembly, namely the spiritual ritual program. The spiritual division often collaborates with other PPI Sakarya divisions such as the social, womens, and arts divisions. To create competition programs between students such as Quran recitation contests, short prayers, and connecting verses (*Interview with Adam Syaikhul, Vice Chairman of the Spiritual Division, PPI Sakarya, n.d.*).

In addition, the spiritual division also collaborates with the daily PPI Sakarya committee to visit Indonesian-colored houses in Sakarya to stay in touch and also socialize with the spiritual work program and Sakarya PPI so that students can get to know each other better and can also socialize with students. PPI Sakarya also conducts outreach activities for newcomers to Sakarya. By holding large gatherings in campus parks and also light games so that Sakarya Students can mingle and have lots of new friends (*Interview with Arif Mazukki, Sakarya University Student Majoring in Architecture, n.d.*).

Of all the efforts carried out by the Joint Spiritual Division of the PPI Sakarya, there have been many positive impacts, such as fellow Sakarya students getting to know each other. The studies of knowledge learned can be applied in everyday life. Applying religious knowledge and spiritual rituals can increase faith and heart stability. Eliminate social inequality between Indonesian students in Turkiye. Increase familiarity because they often meet and get to know each other. A learning event for students to increase friendship relations. Avoiding doctrines of schools that contradict the Al-Quran and Hadith. Having spiritual activities for Indonesian students in Sakarya can minimize moral events and causes of social inequality among

students (Elita, n.d.). Apart from that, PPI Sakarya Bersama, the spiritual and women's division, also organizes joint sports activities every Saturday. So in addition to increasing familiarity and faith it also has an impact on maintaining health and body fitness (*Interview with Sri Aprilia Balqis, Sakarya Student Majoring in International Relations*, n.d.). besides that, the Sakarya Students also feel happy if their house is made into a Student Association even though they have to rotate.

They argue that by holding recitation activities and praying together, they feel happy, and the house becomes crowded, by holding banquets together. can increase intimacy between students. After completing the study, students can chat and share stories. Senior students can be appropriate to ask more junior students. Eliminate partitions between students and seniority gaps among students (*Interview with Nur Karima Almazia, Sakarya Student Majoring in Social Affairs*, n.d.).

On major religious holidays, the spiritual division often carries out large-scale Halal bi-Halal activities. Inviting all Indonesian residents in Sakarya. For mothers who are married to Turkiye people, they call gelin, Indonesian residents who just work at Turkiye, and Indonesian students from various forces stay in touch with one another. Forgive and share the joy. so that the Indonesian people in Turkiye feel they have a family even though they cannot return to Indonesia. The event committee also provided Indonesian specialties as dishes such as popor, rendang, wet cakes, and pastries. Those who make the food are fellow Indonesian students themselves. They can also work together and work together, train cohesiveness and learn to socialize (*Interview with Ms. Rafika Hayati, Gelin, Who Is Married to a Turkiye Who Lives in Sakarya Turkiye*, n.d.).

The spiritual routine program made by PPI Sakarya especially the Spiritual division is considered effective enough to become a place for learning and socializing for Sakarya Students and this activity also received a positive response from students and non-students to become a place for friendship and learning

## **Conclusion**

Based on the results of an analysis of the data obtained, it was found that the spiritual ritual initiated by the Sakarya Indonesian Students Association (PPI) was quite effective in creating intimacy between Indonesian students who were in Sakarya Turkey. Spiritual rituals are performed once every two weeks. This activity

begins with reading the Qur'an, prayers, and scientific discussions, and closes with dinner together. This activity was carried out in turns at the residence of Indonesian students in Sakarya. In addition, spiritual rituals have many sub-programs consisting of reciting the Koran and praying, Friday boosters by posting scientific studies, and snippets of verses from the Koran and hadiths. Lively Ramadhan, Halal bi halal, Competitions with Islamic smells, Commemoration of Islamic holidays, Bible studies, and sharing sessions between students.

In addition, it was also found that spiritual rituals had a positive impact on the morality of Indonesian students at Sakarya such as; the absence of sects between students, the disappearance of gaps between social groups, and the creation of a space for discussion and friendship between students. From this, the researcher concludes that spiritual rituals are quite effective in overcoming the problem of morality for Indonesian students in Sakarya Turkiye.

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