The Urgency of Positive Relationships in Fostering Learning Motivation

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Abstract: The purpose of this research is to understand the importance of how positive relationships can foster student learning motivation and develop strategies that can improve positive relationships and learning motivation in the educational environment. This research was conducted at the KH Mas Mansur UMS Student Boarding School. This research uses a qualitative and field study approach, conducted directly in the field using objective data. Data collection techniques with observation are carried out in observation to be able to observe the object under study, interviews to collect some information and informants to obtain data, and documentation is used as supporting data to help obtain credible data. To test data credibility, researchers use triangulation, which can be interpreted as checking data from various sources in different ways and at various times, using triangulation of sources, techniques, and time. The results of this study explain the strategies for choosing positive relationships, the criteria for positive relationships referred to by students, and the importance of positive relationships in fostering learning motivation, there are five strategies, namely aligned goals and values, supportive friends, honesty and openness, commitment to education, avoidance of negative influences and indicators that can be classified that positive relationships are significant as evidenced in the discussion, namely cooperation, emotional support, healthy competition, role models, and exchange of ideas or inspiration.

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A. Introduction

Humans are social beings who cannot be separated and will always be involved in implementing education, either education for themselves or education for others, which is one of the efforts in educating the life of the nation and state. Therefore, education has a vital role in national development efforts, so striving for high-quality education relevant to the times is necessary (Sholihah & Kurniawan, 2016). These efforts have no meaning if a knowledge claimant does not have seriousness in learning; two factors are influenced by knowledge claimants, namely internal factors and external factors; internal factors in the form of physical, psychological, and fatigue factors, while external factors are environmental factors that are around him (Karina et al., 2017).

In one study, it was explained that having a wide range of relationships will bring a person to a level of maturity and increase learning motivation; in addition, peer relationships will support a knowledge seeker to be able to explore himself better and will always get support in terms of learning (Nasution, 2018). However, other studies explain that it is not enough to expand relationships or friendships to foster learning motivation; it also requires a good relationship between one person and another so that there is good interaction or communication between the two parties (Kurniawati & Basuki, 2023). In other studies, it is also explained that the factors that have an impact on a student are friendship factors; researchers say that juvenile delinquency is caused by the lack of selectivity of knowledge claimants in choosing a friendship environment and participating in norms created by a group of people without having guidelines by the norms (Maliah, 2014).

So, in this case, a positive relationship is needed to help foster learning motivation. This environmental factor or positive relationship will significantly affect a person in the learning process, especially in fostering learning motivation (Nasution, 2018). In the perspective of Islam, the support or role of positive relationships is also explained in a hadith of the Prophet SAW: "The example of good friendship and bad friendship is like a perfume seller and a blacksmith. If you associate with a perfume seller, he will give you the sweet smell of perfume, and if you associate with a blacksmith, you will get the sparks of his fire on your clothes and cause an unpleasant odor." (HR Bukhari 5534 and Muslim 2628). Friendship relationships have a broad meaning, ranging from relationships in the family, at school, and even in the community. This relationship has a very important role in fostering the knowledge seeker's personality in behavior and action (Ramadhani et al., 2023).

According to Islamic Psychology theory, a positive friendship can be felt when the environment can provide a warm, honest, kind, trustworthy, and helpful attitude towards each other (Siska et al., 2023). According to Islamic Psychology theory, friendship is a friendship that always brings a calm and happy heart and can eliminate the burden of the mind. This friendship brings love and affection so that every human being who is intertwined feels happy and comfortable (Ginanjar, 2017).

The rapid development of this era requires knowledge claimants to always keep up with existing developments, including in the context of relationships or friendships (Amalia et al., 2024). What happens now, in the context of higher education, is that students have not
been able to choose a friendship environment that can increase their learning motivation, and instead, they prioritize their pleasure in choosing a friendship relationship. This happens in the KH Mas Mansur UMS Student Boarding School environment, which is still very shallow with interactions between friends, which will impact student learning motivation; bad friendships will lead someone towards bad, and good friendships will lead someone towards good (Ahmad et al., 2016). So, students need to choose friends who can positively impact themselves. As a concrete example, namely in completing the final project or thesis or daily assignments, students are still very unmotivated to immediately complete their work in facing campus exams, students are still too lazy to study, and even in carrying out lectures, students often underestimate by coming late, being lazy and worse to skip classes in learning.

Positive relationships are very important for students in fostering learning motivation. Character dissimilarities can affect a person's motivation and enthusiasm for learning. In education, the existence of a positive friendship environment can impact increasing cognitive abilities, so in this case, a person will be encouraged to have the capability to study. Massive interaction with positive relationships will have a positive impact on fostering learning motivation (Anggreni & Rudiarta, 2022).

During the process of shaping character, a person will be carried away by the character according to his/her association. This friendship has a very big role in shaping character, especially in changing learning patterns. During the character-building stage, a child will sometimes be carried away according to the character of his friend. Friendship relations have a big role in this formation process; this is a form of self-adjustment for their peers (Nurfand et al., 2023). In this case, it can also be said in psychology, which is the science that discusses the soul being the response of living things to the environment (Nurussakinah, 2014).

In another study, it was explained that choosing a friendship environment or interaction with other people will affect a person's life and can affect positively and negatively in terms of choosing lifestyle, behavior, and health (Rahmayanty et al., 2023). Other studies also explain how to understand positive relationships according to Islamic psychology, which can positively impact individuals; good relationships are created from a healthy environment; if you fall into an unhealthy environment, it will affect your learning motivation (Siska et al., 2023). So, it can be concluded that this research aims to understand the importance of how positive relationships can foster student learning motivation and develop strategies that can improve positive relationships and learning motivation in the Education environment.

This research is vital because positive relationships have been shown to influence individuals' well-being and success in learning. Through this research, we can understand in depth that positive peer relationships affect many aspects of an individual's life, from mental health to academic and professional achievement. Therefore, this research provides a foundation for developing strategies or solutions to improve individual social relationships and learning motivation.
The purpose of this research, in general, is to find out and represent how important the role of positive relationships is in increasing learning motivation. The purpose of this study specifically is to identify factors that make interactions with good friends increase learning motivation and know or represent indicators or criteria that can be categorized as positive relationships.

B. Method

This research uses qualitative research with a field study approach, conducted directly in the field using objective data. The data obtained from this research comes from 2 sources, namely primary and secondary sources; primary sources are obtained through field research, and secondary data is obtained through articles, journals, or other scientific works and the internet to support data objectivity. This research was conducted at Pesantren Mahasiswa KH Mas Mansur UMS by involving 2 administrators and pesantren students, 5 students consisting of senior students, new students, and middle students.

Data collection techniques with observation are carried out in observation to observe the object under study, interviews to collect some information and informants to obtain data, and documentation is used as supporting data to help obtain credible data. The approach used is a descriptive approach. Namely, the study analyzes the data obtained by describing the situation or condition under study as a description (Sugiyono, 2018).

To test the credibility of the data, researchers used triangulation, which can be interpreted as checking data from various sources in different ways and at various times, using triangulation of sources, techniques, and time (Sugiyono, 2018).

The data analysis used in this study uses the Miles and Huberman model. This concept reveals that the data analysis process is carried out interactively, during data collection, directly, and after completion of data collection within a certain period, by continuing until the data is considered saturated and credible (Sugiyono, 2018). The following is the flow of research from beginning to end.

![Qualitative Research Method Design](image)

**Figure 1.** Qualitative Research Method Design
C. Result and Discussion

Result

Data Analysis

Data analysis was carried out systematically using the concept of Milles and Huberman. Data reduction was then carried out from the data collection results, which outline that the role of positive relationships in learning motivation is vital. Having a friendship environment that brings a positive direction can be seen from several factors, namely emotional support, learning collaboration, social influence, and role models.

Critical Appraisal

Critical Appraisal or critical Appraisal uses the JBI Critical Appraisal for Experimental Studies, which is included in the criteria and totals five research data sets. Table 1 explains each data point.

Positive Relationship

A relationship or friendship is an interaction between two or more people who go hand in hand and help each other in social or religious matters to achieve social intimacy (Rahmat, 2014). From the perspective of Islamic psychology, positive friendships can be accepted when the friendship environment has a good impact on us, such as honesty, intelligence, trustworthiness, and influence in terms of devotion. In Islamic teachings, it is also taught to look for a good, positive friendship environment because this can help a person feel protected and accessible from a friendship environment that is said to be toxic in these relationships in the context of students (Siska et al., 2023).

In general, several factors can affect student learning motivation, and there are at least 2 factors: internal and external. Internal factors, in this case, are physical or physical matters, maturity, psychology, intelligence, motivation, and other competencies that a person has. External factors are the family environment, friendship environment, natural arches, relationships between other students, teaching and learning methods, social friends, etc (Saputro & Pardiman, 2018). So, in this case, a knowledge claimant needs to pay attention to these external factors.

The effect of the relationship between positive relationships and learning motivation can affect everything related to learning actions. In this case, positive relationships can be in the form of a healthy friendship environment, getting along with fellow friends, promiscuity, and quality so that the creation of enthusiasm and motivation in learning is easy to increase (Uمام, 2019). One alternative that can be done to foster learning motivation is to increase positive friendships in the context of learning because if we choose the wrong friends, then we will fall into something that is not good.
Data 1

Based on the results of observations and interviews with mahasantri conducted at Pesantren Mahasiswa KH Mas Mansur UMS, the mahasantri argued that this positive relationship's impact on learning motivation was very influential. Even in terms of daily things or yaumiah, they unconsciously have good friendships or this positive environment, which makes them participate in these positive habits. From one of the results of an interview with a Student Pesantren student, he said that positive relationships are significant because relationships have a heterogeneous nature. Of course, having positive relationships will bring us in a better direction, and positive relationships are directly proportional to learning motivation because they will become a habit in learning management.

A positive friendship will birth an interaction relationship that is vital to self-development and one's ethics, morals, and values (Ratnasari & Alias, 2016).

Data 2

Based on the results of interviews with administrators and students at the KH Mas Mansur UMS Student Boarding School, it is stated that this positive relationship provides its own enthusiasm and high learning motivation because the more we expand positive relationships, this self will always feel less and be encouraged to be more than others. If we match the friendship environment we have now, we will be influenced by good learning patterns. If we are less compatible with the current friendship environment, then the book analyzes that this relationship is not good and should be avoided. This positive relationship will increase knowledge and help each other solve problems or exchange ideas.

As for the interaction of friends who are concerned with their egos, surely it will not last long and will quickly fade; good relationships should be able to control each other's egos to create excellent and harmonious relationships by avoiding jealousy and envy towards fellow friends (Hizriyani, 2011).

Data 3

Based on the results of an interview with one of the administrators as well as the students of the KH Mas Mansur UMS Student Boarding School, he said that he felt that this positive friendship relationship helped him in terms of growing his learning motivation when he was lazy for example, he said that friends were the motivation to complete his assignments immediately. When we have friends who can have an impact on us, it will make this matter of learning more competitive. Besides that, having positive relationships is also essential to increase our competitiveness in learning and getting maximum results.

In addition, the respondent is also an active person in the Pesantren organization; of course, in the organization, we will find various human characters, and there, it becomes a place to upgrade himself, learn time management, manage himself, and improve literacy.
By having a positive environment, a student will be encouraged to follow in the footsteps of success, for example, when seeing seniors or peers who have completed their studies.

**Data 4**

Based on the results of the interview, this new generation of mahasantri said that when they are in the pesantren and the boarding house, it is very different and affects the learning system because the relationship in this pesantren invites students to follow the existing rules, when is the time to worship when is the time to relax, when is the time to study, so in this case as a student as well as a mahasantri, we have the same goal, namely completing the study period.

With this difference in relationships when in a boarding house, which is not certain as a student can control it with relationships in Pesantren, students inevitably have to follow existing rules and make friends with friends in Pesantren. So, in this case, students who are prone to promiscuity will be more awake and structured in their learning patterns.

**Data 5**

Based on the results of interviews with senior class mahasantri, they said that good friendship is a friendship that can bring us in a better direction, always invites us to piety and goodness, and keeps us away from negative actions. It is important for us to have positive relationships to support our success in learning because by having positive friendships, we will be encouraged to do things that are positive as well.

In addition, having friends who can invite us to continue to be enthusiastic about learning and having smart friends allows us to take what is there from our friends. For example, when we have a relationship that can solve problems or help us in learning, then this can be used to exchange knowledge, exchange experiences, and add insight.

In this case, positive friendship relationships have several criteria that can be assessed as relationships that can foster learning motivation (Aini et al., 2023).

1. **Open Communication**
   - Open communication allows interpersonal interaction to produce a new idea and avoid lousy prejudice. A good friend will always be open to everything and will always exchange stories with others.

2. **Trust and Mutual Respect**
   - A relationship will always trust each other by prioritizing honesty in speaking without lying to friends, respecting each other, and respecting each other’s opinions without having to drop them.

3. **Have Empathy**
   - Characterized by a feeling of understanding each other, loving each other, and sympathizing with each other.
4. Impact for the better
   Of course, positive relationships will have a positive impact, too, because good friendships will not harm themselves and others.

5. Loyalty and consistency in supporting each other.
   A good friend is a loyal friend who does not leave when you are under and will stay together when you are above. Besides that, they also support each other in any case, especially in motivating the spirit of learning.

Table 1. Data Analysis Indicators of Positive Relationships in Fostering Learning Motivation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Subject</th>
<th>Design Method</th>
<th>Cooperation</th>
<th>Emotional Support</th>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Role Models</th>
<th>Exchange of Ideas or Inspiration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject 1</td>
<td>RCT</td>
<td>Saying that relationships can help in solving assignment problems</td>
<td>Support in encouraging learning</td>
<td>It will be a competition without having to put each other down</td>
<td>Having a relationship that has a high passion for learning will make me more eager to learn.</td>
<td>Learning with friends provides a platform to exchange ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject 2</td>
<td>RCT</td>
<td>It is essential to have positive relationships, as we can collaborate and help each other.</td>
<td>There is a support system other than lovers and parents</td>
<td>These positive friendships will be exciting and competitive</td>
<td>Instead, I am more motivated by my friends. When I am tired or too lazy to study</td>
<td>Discussing with friends is a privilege of having positive relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject 3</td>
<td>RCT</td>
<td>With this positive relationship, I can share difficulties with friends, and friends help me solve them.</td>
<td>Always provide motivation</td>
<td>I always feel rivaled when my achievement is far from those of my friends.</td>
<td>With my friend who stepped up first, I remember my friend who was challenging but still had a passion for learning.</td>
<td>Always feel more knowledgeable when discussing with friends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject 4</td>
<td>RCT</td>
<td>With this positive friendship, we can understand each other and resolve conflicts.</td>
<td>Always present When struggling to complete coursework</td>
<td>With good friends and always studying hard, I will always feel like I have to step up to the plate.</td>
<td>My friend constantly studies and gets good results, so I follow in his footsteps.</td>
<td>I feel like I gain more insight when I hang out with friends.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The table above shows the response of the students of Pesantren Mahasiswa KH Mas Mansur UMS. It can be concluded that positive relationships to learning motivation are very important, as evidenced by the responses of several students of different generations who have the same problems and solutions.

Discussion
Positive Relationships in Fostering Learning Motivation

Positive relationships or relationships are certainly something that all humans want and want to stay away from toxic environments or invite us to bad things. There are several characteristics of a positive friendship environment that can positively impact us, motivating us to learn, namely encouraging each other in learning, helping us solve problems, giving advice or motivation to one another, and accepting complaints in terms of learning or others (Siska et al., 2023).

A person should have quality friendship interactions; having good and quality friendship interactions will have a positive impact and is considered vital and fundamental because these positive relationships are able to develop human mental well-being, reduce psychological disorders, and, most importantly, increase learning motivation (Nida, 2021).

So, the solutions or strategies that can be offered in choosing positive relationships in fostering learning motivation include:

1. Aligned goals and values

Choose relationships that share your goals and values to increase your motivation to learn and achieve your studies. Then, they will encourage you to stay motivated (Dayana & Marbun, 2018).

2. Supportive Friends

Supportive friends will motivate us when we face learning challenges. Positive relationships provide encouraging support and get you through the challenges (Shihab, 2021).
3. **Honesty and Openness**

   Look for friends who are honest and open about sharing learning experiences, including when we have difficulty learning. This will help us solve a problem in learning. According to Islamic Psychology Theory, a positive friendship can be felt when the environment provides a warm, honest, kind, trustworthy, and helpful attitude toward each other (Siska et al., 2023).

4. **Commitment to Education**

   Friends who are committed to education will inspire us to reach a higher level of education and motivation to learn. They will be good role models for us and will always encourage us to stay focused on the education process.

5. **Negative influence avoidance**

   Avoiding harmful or toxic friendships can harm our motivation to learn. This includes friends who often complain about assignments, are lazy, and underestimate the urgency of education.

   If analyzed with the data presented above, there are several indicators or essential values that can be embedded in students that this positive relationship is significant for students to build in fostering student motivation in learning, including:

1. **Cooperation**

   Cooperation is indeed needed because cooperation will make it easier for students to complete their learning activities, with the emergence of exchanging ideas, experiences, or solutions in solving problems and cohesiveness between students (Syafitri & Suprayitno, 2019). The cooperation referred to here is in terms of helping someone with learning difficulties, so if one of the students has difficulty with the material or completes the assignment, role friendship is needed.

2. **Emotional Support**

   Fair and best friends are always emotionally supportive friends, both when we are down and happy. In terms of learning, this will help students feel supported and motivated to study even harder. The role of emotional support will impact students in the form of praise so that indirectly, students will feel motivated to complete their learning tasks (Hanapi & Agung, 2018).

3. **Healthy Competition**

   Competition with worthy friends can increase student motivation to do everything well and maximize and achieve good learning results. Competition is a struggle that is mobilized in totality by someone to achieve victory or maximum results. This makes competition on campus more competitive, increasing motivation to learn more and achieve exemplary achievements (Syafitri & Suprayitno, 2019).

4. **Role Model**

   A positive or high-achieving peer environment can serve as a role model that motivates students to emulate the positive behaviors they exhibit in their studies. (Savitri, 2023).
According to the results of an interview with one of the KH Mas Mansur UMS student pesantren students, he is imitating seniors or successful friends to increase his passion for learning and learning performance.

5. Exchange of Ideas or Inspiration

In this case, the function of positive friendship relations, namely having interactions with friends or extensive relationships, will open up opportunities for themselves to share knowledge, ideas, experiences, and understanding that can enrich students' learning experiences because students should not only gain knowledge or seek knowledge only in the classroom. However, they should be able to reach positive relationships outside the classroom to increase their knowledge and motivation to learn (Harianto, 2020).

D. Conclusion

Based on the results of the research and discussion that the researchers have carried out, it can be concluded that the data and descriptions above have explained that students and administrators in various batches at the KH Mas Mansur UMS Student Boarding School have several indicators of the importance of positive relationships in increasing learning motivation. With some of the above indicators being a reference regarding the urgency of this positive relationship, there are five indicators: cooperation, emotional support, healthy competition, role models, and exchange of ideas or inspiration.

Looking at the current situation, students really need positive relationships to create a good learning environment. Strategies that can be offered in this case include at least five things that must be known.

Goals and values that are in line, supportive friends, honesty and openness, commitment to education, avoidance of negative influences and, can be proven by the existence of positive relationship indicators in the KH Mas Mansur UMS Student Boarding School; students can increase learning motivation by associating with a good friendship environment. Therefore, students must choose a good friendship environment to foster enthusiasm and motivation to study at the KH Mas Mansur UMS Student Boarding School.

The researcher's suggestion to the next researcher is to expand the range of this positive relationship discussion, not only in the pesantren environment but also in the scope of students. Still, it can plunge into the wider community environment. So, the implications of this positive relationship can have a broad influence, especially in education.

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