

## THE EFFECT OF FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE ON RELIGIOSITY IN STUDENTS

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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to determine the effect of friendship circles on religiosity in 2nd and 4th semester students at the Faculty of Psychology, State Islamic University Raden Fatah Palembang. the research method used in this research is quantitative using comparative causal techniques. The subjects of this study were 2nd and 4th semester students at the Faculty of Psychology, State Islamic University Raden Fatah Palembang. The sample of this study were 33 students who were taken using a questionnaire. The instrument used is the friendship circle scale and the religiosity scale. The results of the hypothesis test (product moment) show a very high level of relationship, there is a real (significant) influence of variable X (friendship) on variable Y (religiosity). From the output it can be seen that F count = 9,722 with a significance level or probability of 0.004 < 0.05, the regression model can be used to predict the religiosity variable.

### Introduction

The friendship cycle is a model that describes the changes in a person's social life from childhood to adulthood. This model consists of four stages, namely the initial stage, the exploration stage, the development stage and the consolidation stage. In the early stages, individuals develop social relationships with peers and adults around them. In the exploration stage, individuals begin to explore different social and moral values and determine what is important to them. At this stage of development, individuals begin to develop deeper social relationships and reinforce values that are important to them. In the consolidation stage, individuals have stable and strong social relationships and values that they have defined. Religiosity is a person's religious beliefs and practices.

Religion comes from the word *religiosus* which means return or re-ligare which means choice. In short, religious belief is a feeling and awareness of a relationship with God and human relations (Rukiyanto, 2021). Religious belief comes from oneself, starting from human consciousness, realizing that life is a gift from God. The embodiment of religiosity can be seen from human life in carrying out activities that can be seen with the eyes or in the human heart. There are five kinds of religious dimensions, namely the dimension of belief, the dimension of practice, the dimension of knowledge, the dimension of experience, and the dimension of consequences.).

Religiosity itself can be interpreted as a person's depth in believing in a religion accompanied by the level of knowledge of his religion which is manifested in the experience

of religious values, namely by obeying the rules and carrying out obligations with sincerity in everyday life related to worship (Amna, 2015). One of several functions of religion is the function of social control. As a function of social control, religion provides regulations that must be obeyed by its adherents. So this prevents adherents from doing something that is prohibited and doing something that is ordered according to their religious norms. In addition, religion also functions as a means of educating, savior, peace, fostering a sense of solidarity, and transformative function (Mahmudah, 2017).

In this case religion functions in regulating its adherents in doing something that is outside the norms or rules of that religion. This is because religiosity is a complex integration between religious knowledge, feelings and religious actions within a person (Wahyudin, Pradisti & Wulandari, (2018). The successful integration of this aspect will affect how the behavior of adherents of that religion. The influence of association becomes significant to religiosity because through the influence of the environment which is included in the social basis of religion becomes a place for individuals to develop and maintain a set of religious beliefs. Individuals acquire their world view through the process of socialization and through ongoing interaction with others.

Circle of friends is a type of social relationship that is formed when people come together for a specific purpose. Friendship circles can be formed in various environments, ranging from personal, social, academic, and other environments. One of the most important aspects of circle of friends is how the people involved in this circle can influence each other. This influence can occur in various ways, including interactions between individuals, participation in joint activities, and exchange of information. Religiosity is a level of commitment that a person has towards religious beliefs. This can be seen in various ways, including participation in worship, religious practices, and social behavior based on religious teachings. Many studies have shown that a person's social relationships can affect his level of religiosity. Religion becomes a need for adolescents as a guide or strength that can help them overcome new urges and desires that they have never known before. Among the teenage problems that stand out a bit is the problem of friendship that will lead them to a good path or a path that can lead them into real misguidance. Therefore, teenagers must be smart in choosing associations or friendship circles to accompany them on the right way forward and not turn on the wrong path. Religion becomes a need for adolescents as a guide or strength that can help them overcome new urges and desires that they have never known before. Among the teenage problems that stand out a bit is the problem of friendship that will lead them to a good path or a path that can lead them into real misguidance. Therefore, teenagers must be smart in choosing associations or friendship circles to accompany them on the right way forward and not turn on the wrong path. Religion becomes a need for adolescents as a guide or strength that can help them overcome new urges and desires that they have never known before. Among the teenage problems that stand out a bit is the problem of friendship that will lead them to a good path or a path that can lead them into

real misguidance. Therefore, teenagers must be smart in choosing associations or friendship circles to accompany them on the right way forward and not turn on the wrong path.

Several studies have shown that the friendship cycle can affect one's religiosity. In the early stages, individuals may not have strong beliefs in a particular religion or religious practices. However, through the influence of peers and adults around them, individuals can begin to develop stronger religious beliefs at the exploratory stage. At this stage of development, individuals can develop deeper relationships with members of the religious community and strengthen their beliefs. In the consolidation stage, individuals can have stable and strong religious beliefs and practices. However, it should be noted that the friendship cycle does not always have a positive influence on one's religiosity. Peers or an environment that does not support religious values can influence individuals to reduce their religious practices or even eliminate their religious beliefs completely. The cycle of friendship and religiosity is a topic of interest in social psychology and religion. Currently, many studies have been conducted to examine the influence of friendship cycles on religiosity. In this paper, we will discuss the influence of friendship cycles on religiosity from the point of view of social psychology and religion.

### **Theories About the Influence of Friendship Circles on Religiosity**

#### *Theory of Socialization of Religion*

According to the theory of religious socialization, social context can influence how people express their religiosity. This theory states that people form strong relationships with people who share the same religious background. This friendship helps strengthen and reinforce their religious attitudes and values. This theory of religious socialization was first introduced in the 19th century by the sociologist of religion Emile Durkheim. According to Durkheim, social relations and interactions can shape religious attitudes and beliefs. He argued that people who are in the same environment develop the same religiosity. So this theory shows that closed social communities influence how religious people are. Emile Durkheim is the founder of the theory of religious socialization (Smith, C., 2009).

#### *Social Attachment Theory*

Social bond theory is an idea developed by American psychologist Robert E. Kraut in 1973. This theory states that people with larger and stronger social networks show higher levels of religiosity than people with smaller and stronger social networks. Social attachment theory also argues that when people have social networks consisting of people who share their views on life, values and religious beliefs, a greater sense of religiosity emerges.

Kraut concludes that wider and stronger social networks can help people lead more religious lives. This is because wider and stronger social networks can provide the social and moral support needed to help people lead more religious lives. Social attachment theory also argues that wider and stronger social networks can help people adhere to religious values and avoid actions that conflict with religious values.

Social attachment theory about the effect of circle of friends on religiosity suggests that people with wider and stronger social networks have greater religiosity than people with smaller and weaker social networks. This theory is based on the notion that wider and more powerful social networks can provide the social and moral support needed to help people lead more religious lives.

According to social attachment theory, humans have a need to feel attached to and connected to other people. Friendship circles can fulfill this need by being a source of social support and emotional attachment. This can help in strengthening one's attachment to religious beliefs and religious practices. Social attachment theory also states that there is a relationship between social attachment and religiosity. Social attachment is the process by which a person seeks relationships with other people. This social attachment can occur through relationships with family, friends, or other people who share the same religious views. This social attachment can affect a person's level of religiosity.

### *Social Identity Theory*

Social identity theory is a theory that studies the relationship between internal and external influences on the formation of social identity. This theory also examines how individuals understand who they are and how they interact with the world around them. This theory was developed by Erik Erikson, a social psychologist who focuses on the development of human social roles and identities. This theory has also been applied to explain the effect of social identity on religiosity. In particular, some researchers have used this theory to describe how characteristics of social structure, such as church affiliation, can affect people's religiosity. A study by C. Otis Williams and Barry S. Hurlburt (2019) at the University of Oregon shows that there is a strong relationship between social identity and religiosity. Their findings show that people who have a stronger identity with their religion tend to be more religious and are more likely to form relationships with others who share their beliefs (Williams, CO & Hurlburt, BS 2019).

### *Social Influence Theory*

The theory of the social influence of friendship circles on religiosity is a theory that explains that the social influence of friendship can influence how a person experiences religiosity. This theory is based on the assumption that the people with whom a person interacts have a significant influence on the way they live their religious life. This theory was first put forward by social psychologist Robert Putnam in 2007. Putnam argues that a person tends to be more religious when he is in an environment with strict standards where people around him value, respect and practice religious values. He also concluded that people who are close to people who are more religious also tend to be more religious. Putnam found in his research that people with larger social circles made up of people with different opinions and beliefs tend to be less religious. This suggests that social interactions and

friendships can have a significant impact on how a person experiences religiosity. The inventor of this theory is Robert Putnam (Putnam, RD 2007)

Then, in 2019, a study conducted by researchers at the University of Rochester showed that a person's social influence can play a more important role in a person's religiosity than other factors such as age, gender, or socioeconomic background. This study concludes that someone who interacts with more religious people tends to be more religious. (Burke, CJ, & Dutta, K. (2019).

### *Theory of the Psychology of Religion*

This theory was put forward by William G. Hill in 2001. According to him, closer or wider relationships between friends can increase one's awareness and religious commitment. Hill suggested that people who are surrounded by religious friends might try to adjust to that environment and adopt the same attitudes and beliefs as their friends. Hill concluded that people in non-religious settings show lower religious commitment than those in religious settings. The psychological theory of religion about the influence of friendship on religiosity is a theory that explains how friendship and religiosity can influence religious attitudes and beliefs. Psychologists have studied this theory to see if friendship can influence a person's religious commitment. According to this theory, higher levels of religious commitment can result from closer friendships with people who share the same faith (Hill, WG (2001).

According to the psychological theory of religion, a person's religious beliefs and religious practices can assist in meeting human psychological needs, such as the need for meaning in life, security, and understanding of oneself. Circles of friendship can reinforce the psychological benefits provided by one's religious beliefs and religious practices. The psychological theory of religion according to the influence of circles and friendships on religiosity also states that the social environment can influence a person's level of religiosity. This environment can be in the form of a family environment, a circle of friends, or an environment of other people who share the same religious views. This environment can influence how a person sees religion and how they practice religion. This environment can also affect a person's level of religiosity.

### **Method**

This research uses quantitative research methods. Data was collected using a data collection instrument in the form of a questionnaire. The data were obtained from a sample of UIN Raden Fatah Palembang students in semesters 2 and 4, who filled out a friendship and religiosity scale questionnaire of 33 students. And the determination uses the Comparative Causal Technique where it looks for causes and effects of a variable and is processed using SPSS vers 22. According to Sugiyono (2013), Pearson product moment correlation is used to find relationships and prove the hypothesis of a relationship between two variables (bivabrate) in the form of an interval or ratio, and the data source of the two or more variables is the same.

Before testing the hypothesis, the first step is to test the classical assumptions and prerequisites.

a. Normality test

**Tests of Normality**

	Kolmogorov-Smirnov <sup>a</sup>			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
PERTEMANAN	,180	33	,008	,929	33	,032
RELIGIUSITAS	,136	33	,124	,970	33	,491

a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

Used to determine whether the data used is normally distributed data or not. To carry out a normality test using SPSS 22 with criteria that are considered normal if a significant score is 0.05. This normality test uses Shapiro Wilk's theory, Shapiro Wilk's probability normality test, at a total of 30 and remains stable for up to 50 samples.

b. Linearity test aims to determine whether the two variables have a linear relationship or not. A good correlation should have a linear relationship between the independent (X) and the dependent variable (Y). The basis for decision making in the linearity test can be in two ways, namely:

- Comparing the value (Sig) with 0.5
  1. If the deviation from linearty sig value is > 0.05 then there is a linear relationship
  2. If the deviation from linearty dig <0.05, there is no significant relationship
- Comparing calculated F values and F tables
  1. If the calculated F value < F table then there is a significant relationship
  2. If F count > F table then there is no significant relationship.

**ANOVA Table**

			Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
PERTEMANAN * RELIGIUSITAS	Between Groups	(Combined)	198,094	10	19,809	2,056	,076
		Linearity	97,898	1	97,898	10,161	,004
		Deviation from Linearity	100,196	9	11,133	1,155	,369
Within Groups			211,967	22	9,635		
Total			410,061	32			

**Results and Discussion**

This study aims to determine the effect of friendship on religiosity. The research procedure was carried out by giving friendship and religiosity scale questionnaires to students. Before testing the hypothesis, the first step is to test the classical assumptions or

prerequisites. In the correlation test, it is significant to perform a simple linear regression analysis used to test the effect of one independent variable.

#### Correlations

		PERTEMANA N	RELIGIUSITA S
PERTEMANAN	Pearson Correlation	1	,489**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		,004
	N	33	33
RELIGIUSITAS	Pearson Correlation	,489**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,004	
	N	33	33

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The correlation table above for variable X (friendship) to Y (religiousness) has a correlation seen from the degree guideline, namely moderate, in the form of a negative relationship, the influence in the Pearson correlation table is 0.489. It can be concluded that the correlation is positive where if the higher the X variable (friendship), the lower the Y variable (religiosity).

#### ANOVA<sup>a</sup>

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	56.343	1	56.343	9.722	.004 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	179.657	31	5.795		
	Total	236.000	32			

a. Dependent Variable: religiusitas

b. Predictors: (Constant), pertemanan

This output section explains whether there is a real (significant) influence of variable X (friendship) on variable Y (religiosity). From the output it can be seen that F count = 9.722 with a significance level or probability of  $0.004 < 0.05$ , so the regression model can be used to predict the religiosity variable.

#### Tests of Normality

	Kolmogorov-Smirnov <sup>a</sup>			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
PERTEMANAN	,180	33	,008	,929	33	,032
RELIGIUSITAS	,136	33	,124	,970	33	,491

a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

The normality test table above is to find out whether the residual values are normally distributed or not. It is known that the basic concept of Kolmogorov-Smirnov is significant for friendship 0.008 and religiosity 0.124, while the basic concept of Shapiro-Wilk is significant for friendship 0.032 and religiosity 0.491, so among these basic concepts it can

be said that more than 0.05 residual values of the two variables previously tested are distributed normal.

**Model Summary<sup>b</sup>**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.489 <sup>a</sup>	.239	.214	2.407

a. Predictors: (Constant), pertemanan

b. Dependent Variable: religiusitas

The model summary table above explains the value of the correlation or relationship (R) which is equal to 0.489. From this output, the coefficient of determination (R square) is 0.239 which implies that the influence of the independent variable (friendship) on the dependent variable (religiosity) is 23.9%, while the remaining 78.1% is influenced by other factors outside the variable X.

**Conclusion**

Based on the results of research conducted on the effect of circle of friends on religiosity with a total sample of 33 students at UIN Raden Fatah Palembang, it can be concluded that circle of friends can influence individuals in their own level of religiosity.

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