Managing Spiritual Growth: The Crucial Role Of Educational Management In Christian Religious Education

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Abstract
This study explores the crucial role of educational management in Christian Religious Education (CRE) and emphasizes its significance in shaping the curriculum and objectives of CRE programs. It delves into the integral relationship between educational management and CRE, highlighting the need for systematic adherence to educational management principles within religious education. Effective educational management ensures the clear communication and achievement of goals and objectives in CRE. By organizing the curriculum, setting standards, and implementing teaching strategies, educational management fosters an environment conducive to the spiritual growth and development of students. Moreover, educational management provides guidance for educators in delivering CRE effectively. Through proper planning, coordination, and evaluation, educational management aligns the teaching-learning process with the overall objectives of education. It also facilitates resource allocation to support the implementation of CRE, ensuring that educators receive necessary training and support. The study concludes that integrating sound management principles into CRE is essential for creating meaningful learning experiences that nurture students' spiritual growth. It emphasizes the importance of recognizing the impact of educational management on the quality and effectiveness of CRE programs. Overall, the study underscores the imperative for educators and stakeholders in religious education to embrace best practices in educational management. By doing so, they can create an environment where students thrive both spiritually and academically, contributing positively to their communities and the world at large.
Keywords: Spiritual Growth, Educational Management, Christian Religious Education

INTRODUCTION

Education stands as an indispensable necessity for humanity in the contemporary era. Without education, individuals are bound to dwell in ignorance, unable to navigate the complexities of the modern world. Education serves as the beacon of enlightenment, illuminating minds and empowering individuals to comprehend and contribute to society's advancements. It is the cornerstone upon which progress and development rest, shaping individuals into informed, critical thinkers capable of discerning truth from falsehood (Putra, Padmasari, 2020).

Those deprived of education inevitably lag behind and find themselves trailing in the race of progress. In a rapidly evolving global landscape driven by innovation and knowledge,

the absence of education relegates individuals to the margins of society, perpetuating cycles of poverty, inequality, and social injustice. The transformative power of education extends beyond individual empowerment to societal transformation, fostering economic growth, social cohesion, and democratic governance (Elsy, Boose, 2020).

Similarly, the significance of Christian Religious Education (CRE) cannot be overstated in the current milieu, especially concerning the development and nurturing of the faith of learners. Christian Religious Education serves as a vital component of holistic education, addressing not only the intellectual but also the spiritual and moral dimensions of human existence. Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and the rich traditions of the Christian faith, CRE provides a framework for understanding the world from a spiritual perspective, guiding individuals in their quest for meaning, purpose, and ethical living (Key, 2015).

Christian Religious Education traces its roots back to the primitive church, where the early Christians gathered in fellowship to worship and study the scriptures. The early church was characterized by a sense of Christian community, drawing upon the Jewish faith as the foundation of Christian belief. They held firm convictions in the miraculous acts of God amidst the Israelites, viewing the Old Testament as their spiritual heritage and a testament to God's faithfulness throughout history (McConnell, 2014).

Consequently, pioneering figures within the Christian community fervently championed their beliefs, devising strategies to safeguard and transmit them to subsequent generations. Early Christian leaders recognized the importance of education in nurturing the faith of believers and ensuring its continuity across generations. They established schools, catechetical programs, and theological institutions to educate and equip individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to uphold and propagate the Christian faith (Situmeang, 2021).

Effective educational management plays a pivotal role in the realm of Christian Religious Education. Without proper educational management, the structure and objectives of Christian religious education would falter, undermining its ability to fulfill its mission effectively. Educational management encompasses a range of functions, including curriculum development, teacher training, resource allocation, and assessment, all of which are essential for ensuring the quality and efficacy of religious education programs (Naibaho, 2022).

In the absence of effective management, the organized and systematic nature of Christian religious education would devolve into disarray, failing to achieve its intended purpose with precision and coherence. Educational managers play a crucial role in guiding religious educators, administrators, and stakeholders in the development and implementation of educational policies and practices that align with the values and goals of Christian education (Wahyuni, 2021).

Furthermore, effective educational management fosters collaboration and partnership among various stakeholders, including religious leaders, educators, parents, and community members, to create a supportive and conducive environment for religious

education. It requires strategic planning, communication, and leadership to mobilize resources, build consensus, and address challenges effectively.

In short, education, both secular and religious, is essential for human flourishing and societal progress. Christian Religious Education, rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Christian faith, holds particular significance in nurturing the spiritual growth and development of individuals. Effective educational management is critical for ensuring the quality, relevance, and sustainability of religious education programs, thereby empowering individuals to live out their faith authentically and contribute positively to their communities and the world at large.

METHODS

The method utilized in this study is the analytical method. The analytical method is characterized by the process of exploration, observation, and interpretation based on existing texts, supported by relevant literature. In other words, the analytical method is akin to "Library Research" or library-based inquiry, which involves reading books and investigating texts related to the subject matter of this academic work (Sugiyono, 2020).

The analytical method involves a systematic approach to examining texts and extracting meaningful insights. Researchers employing this method delve deeply into existing literature, scrutinizing various sources to gain a comprehensive understanding of the topic under investigation. By critically analyzing and synthesizing information from multiple texts, researchers can identify patterns, themes, and trends within the data.

Furthermore, the analytical method emphasizes the importance of interpretation and critical thinking. Researchers are encouraged to question assumptions, challenge prevailing theories, and offer new perspectives on the subject matter. Through careful analysis and interpretation of textual evidence, researchers aim to generate new knowledge and contribute to the existing body of literature on the topic.

The analytical method also relies on the availability of relevant literature to support the research findings. Researchers consult a wide range of scholarly works, including books, journal articles, and other academic publications, to gather evidence and contextualize their findings within the existing literature. By integrating insights from various sources, researchers can strengthen the validity and credibility of their research findings. The analytical method employed in this study involves a systematic and rigorous examination of existing texts to uncover insights and generate new knowledge. By employing critical analysis and interpretation, researchers aim to contribute to the advancement of knowledge in their respective field of study. The method underscores the importance of thorough research and scholarly inquiry in producing robust and credible research outcomes.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Understanding Christian Education Management consists of three words: management, education, and Christianity. Then educational management is directed towards effective and efficient organization and objectives. Towards the goals of education and Christianity. Management is the process of cooperation between individuals and groups and other resources in achieving goals, organization is a managerial activity (Simorangkir, 2021). In other words, managerial activities are only found within the framework of an organization, whether it is a business organization, a school, or others. Management comes from the English word Management which means management, arrangement, or administration. Management is the process of helping to formulate policies and goals of an organization or the process of overseeing the things involved in policy implementation and goal achievement. Management is the same as management, namely moving, organizing, and directing human efforts to effectively use materials and facilities to achieve organizational goals. Management is the process of planning, organizing, directing, and controlling the efforts of members, organizations, and resource utilization (Nell, 2016). Other organizational resources in order to achieve the organization's goals that have been set. In general, management is a series of managerial activities carried out by a group, group, or organization for the sake of achieving common goals. It was stated that management is a neat county planning process. Organization, movement, and control are carried out on the determination and other resources. Management is a combination of activities. Educational management can be interpreted as the process of planning, organizing, leading, controlling educational personnel, educational resources to achieve educational goals. Educational management can be interpreted as the process of planning, organizing, leading, controlling educational personnel, educational resources to achieve educational goals (Enskoswara, 2001). Then Usman (2016: 13) states that educational management is the art and science of managing educational resources to realize the active, creative, innovative, and enjoyable learning process and results of learners in developing their potential. While Christian education management is defined as the process of planning, organizing, supervising, controlling, innovating, creativity, activating and leading to achieve Christian educational goals. Christian Education Management is based on Christianity (Celic, Christian, & Matthes, 2016).

Christian Religious Education (CRE) can be developed through the perspectives of various experts in the field. G. Homrighausen stated: "Christian Religious Education is rooted in the fellowship of God's people. In the Old Testament, the fundamentals lie in ancient sacred history, that Christian Religious Education begins since the calling of Abraham as the ancestor of God's chosen people, even based on God Himself because God becomes a learner for His people." Warner C. Graedorf defines CRE as "The process of teaching and learning based on the Bible, centered on Christ, and dependent on the Holy Spirit, which guides each individual at all levels of growth through current teaching towards the knowledge and experience of God's plan and will through Christ in every aspect of life, and equips them for effective service, centered on Christ the Great Teacher and the maturing command to disciples." The understanding of Christian Religious Education as a collective political activity among pilgrims, who consciously spend time together paying attention to

God's activities in our present time, to the stories of the Christian faith community, and the vision of the kingdom of God, the seeds of which have already been planted among us.

Hieronimus (345-420) declared that CRE is education aimed at educating the soul to become the house of God (Mat.5:48). Augustine (345-430) stated that CRE is education aimed at teaching people to "see God" and "live happily." Martin Luther (1483-1548) defined CRE as education that involves congregants in orderly and disciplined learning to become more aware of their sins and to rejoice in the Word of Jesus Christ, which liberates. The goal of CRE can be observed through the views of Reformation figures such as Martin Luther and Calvin.

Marthen Luther in Boehlke (2002:340) stated that the goal of Christian education according to Martin Luther is to involve all congregants, especially the young, in orderly and disciplined learning to become increasingly aware of their sins and to rejoice in the Word of Jesus Christ, which liberates them while equipping them with sources of faith, especially prayer experiences, written Word, Bible, and various cultures, so that they are able to serve others, including society and the state, and to take responsible part in the Christian fellowship, namely the Church (Barton, 2019). John Calvin (1509-1664) stated that CRE aims to educate all sons and daughters of the church so that they: Engage in intelligent Bible study under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, participate in worship and understand the unity of the church, Be equipped to choose ways to embody dedication to God the Father and Jesus Christ in daily work and live responsibly under the sovereignty of God. J.M. The main goal of CRE is "Christian Religious Education" is to bring learners to experience an encounter with Christ, to love God wholeheartedly, to live in obedience, and to be able to practice their faith in daily life.

Government Regulation Number 55 of 2007 Objectives of CRE: a. Producing humans who can understand the love of God in Jesus Christ and love God and others. b. Producing Indonesian humans who are able to live their faith responsibly and have noble morals in a diverse society. Christian Religious Education in schools is presented in two aspects, namely the aspect of the Triune God and His Work, and the aspect of Christian Values. Holistically, the development of Core Competencies and Basic Competencies.

Then the function of Christian Religious Education as a means, method, foundation, guide, and technique for teaching, innovating, integrating, educating, facilitating, and transferring Christian knowledge, knowledge, and skills. Furthermore, CRE functions as a means to facilitate knowledge, understanding, and skills in recognizing God through His work, facilitating encounters with God, facilitating understanding so that those who participate in CRE are able to realize the values of faith in the form of social responsibility both in the family and society.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, educational management plays a crucial role in the context of Christian Religious Education (CRE). Educational management is responsible for

organizing and structuring the curriculum of CRE. The relationship between educational management and CRE is integral because CRE is a part of education. Therefore, CRE must systematically adhere to the rules, structure, and criteria of education in line with educational management principles.

Effective educational management ensures that the goals and objectives of CRE are effectively communicated and achieved. By organizing the curriculum, setting standards, and implementing strategies for teaching and learning, educational management creates an environment conducive to the growth and development of students' faith.

Moreover, educational management provides guidance and direction for educators in delivering CRE effectively. Through proper planning, coordination, and evaluation, educational management ensures that the teaching-learning process in CRE is aligned with the overall objectives of education. Furthermore, educational management facilitates the allocation of resources, both human and material, to support the implementation of CRE. It ensures that educators have the necessary training and support to deliver quality CRE programs.

In essence, the relationship between educational management and CRE underscores the importance of effective planning, organization, and coordination in achieving the goals of religious education. By integrating sound management principles into CRE, educators can create meaningful learning experiences that nurture students' spiritual growth and development. Therefore, it is imperative for educators and stakeholders in religious education to recognize the significance of educational management and its impact on the quality and effectiveness of CRE programs. By working collaboratively and embracing best practices in educational management, they can create an environment where students thrive spiritually and academically.

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