

School Anxiety in Indonesian Madrasahs: Exploring A Growing Hidden Crisis

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KEYWORDS

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ABSTRACT:

Introduction: Education in Indonesia is managed by educational and cultural, and religious policies. The Ministry of Religion oversees the level of primary education to higher education. Madrasah is one level of secondary education that is shaded by spiritual wisdom. Madrasah Tsanawiyah in Indonesia formulates special programs and pesantren as an effort to improve the quality of students. Academic demands such as optimization of competency appeals trigger problem list as anxiety in students.

Objectives: Based on these circumstances, this study aims to photograph the condition of school anxiety in Madrasah..

Methods: This study uses a quantitative method of a cross-sectional survey. The research subjects were Madrasah Tsanawiyah students in Indonesia who were divided into regular students, special program students, Ma'had, and Non-Ma'had students. The sampling technique used random cluster sampling by randomly taking each representative category. The analysis in this research uses descriptive analysis and visual analysis.

Results: The results showed that most of the students experienced anxiety in school. Social anxiety and test anxiety is the common problem compared to health anxiety.

Conclusions: The results showed that most of the students experienced anxiety in school. Social anxiety and test anxiety are common problems compared to health anxiety.

1. Introduction

Indonesia is a country that officially believes in religions including Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Confucianism, Islam, and Catholicism. Islam is the dominating state throughout the world (1,2). Likewise, in Indonesia, referring to demographic data, the population in Indonesia is predominantly Muslim (3). Since Indonesia's independence, it has been seen that Islam has become the religion most widely adhered to by its citizens. This is contained in the history of Pancasila, which formulates that every human being is obliged to carry out Islamic law for its adherents. Over time, that statement became one of the nation's pillars, "Pancasila," the first precept, reads about belief in one and only God (4–7).

The religious aspects contained in Pancasila as the basis of the state have an impact on the education sector in Indonesia. Based on the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System reveals that education is divided into formal education, informal education, and non-formal education which complement each other (4,8–10). Formal education levels include basic education, secondary education, and higher education. Basic education underlies

secondary education, secondary education is a continuation of basic education, which includes general secondary and vocational high schools, and higher education is education after high school organized by universities (11,12).

The two main pillars of Indonesia's education system are religious-based education or schools and regular schools (4,10,13). Dualism management makes various differences in the synergy of each institution. Both cover basic education, secondary education, and higher education. Basic education in religious studies is called madrasah Ibtidaiyah, secondary education includes madrasah Tsanawiyah and madrasa aliyah, while higher education includes STAIN, IAIN, and UIN (3,14).

Highlighting formal education in Indonesia within the ministry of religion, namely madrasah. An effort to improve the optimization of the development of students in several madrasah in Indonesia sparked various innovations in education. The special program is one of the efforts to optimize the improvement of the quality of students. Specifically, the purpose of implementing advance special classes in the scope of madrasa education is to improve the image of madrasah (10,15,16). The special program is to filter several students with qualified competencies to be involved in learning that is advance in terms of facilities and competencies. In addition, boarding school is one of the things opened by several madrasah in the context of character building, personality development, and inculcating life values (17–19).

The programs implemented in each madrasa have positive or negative potential for students. High demands for students who are members of dormitories or in advance schools have a certain impact (16,20). Impacts that may occur include psychological or physical. Referring to a case study conducted in a Madrasah in Lampung shows that the implementation of special classes will create obstacles if there is the unpreparedness of students (21,22). In addition, several cases show that boarding schools cause some unexpected conditions for some students (21,23). In addition, several cases show that boarding schools cause some unexpected conditions for some students.

A high standard of competence in MTs students is a good thing for students, but anxiety will occur. One of the factors that influence student anxiety is the high standardization expected by the school. Given this fact, some students may think of facing the challenge of facing everything in learning one of them (24,25). When facing an exam will have an effect on the exam process because it affects student motivation, this will have a long-term impact on learning outcomes, work, and even access to further education.

Special programs other than superior and advanced classes are Islamic boarding schools. This program requires students to stay active and live in the school environment. Boarding school delivers character and personality development and integrates life values (19,26). Few years ago, after COVID-19 pandemic, our habit to physical healthcare has finally started to change (27,28). Even after the pandemic, this change still make an impact on to making care to their health. This impact allows the potential for anxiety in Madrasah Tsanawiyah students who do not fully have self-health management skills (29,30).

Anxiety based on those triggers does not only occur in anxiety about failure or health anxiety. After COVID-19, the Madrasah that identically had facilities for boarding in Ma'had facing various stigma (10,16,31). Highlighting Madrasah Tsanawiyah students who choose to live in Ma'had to face a new environment, including migrant students as newcomer to the city. Adapting and facing various habit

and personality is something that needs to be done, especially to make sure the healthcare of each students (32–34). This condition is one of the triggers for anxiety in students.

Some special programs might become the cause of students' anxiety. Researchers also reveal that school can potentially be a significant source of anxiety for students (24,35,36). This condition needs special attention, considering that anxiety when facing something that causes a decrease in quality of life (37,38). Therefore, anxiety at school does not require anticipation by all school personnel, considering that the education system plays an essential role in fostering a competitive learning environment that prioritizes academic performance and success.

Anxiety at school is an anxiety disorder in dealing with school environment conditions. A competitive situation needs to be created by schools to maximize learning outcomes. However, this can potentially cause good or lousy anxiety in students. With the pressure of the school environment, there are several possibilities for students. On the other hand, the inability to deal with stress will trigger thoughts of negative behavior, such as truancy behavior, delinquent behavior, and lack of motivation in the school environment.

School anxiety is predicted to occur in Madrasah Tsanawiyah students. Programs conceptualized as a form of support for student development require anticipatory action. Several factors that trigger anxiety that have the potential to occur in students include school anxiety, exam anxiety, health anxiety, and social anxiety; this research becomes the basis for counselors in describing the condition of students at school. Identifying factors that influence the emergence of school anxiety can be used as a basis for counselors in junior high schools' Guidance and Counseling assistance programs.

2. Objectives

This research aims to explore the various forms of school anxiety experienced by students in Indonesian madrasahs. Specifically, it seeks to measure the levels of anxiety among these students and categorize them based on distinct types of anxiety. Furthermore, the study examines how each form of anxiety contributes to overall anxiety in the madrasah setting. As a secondary objective, the research hypothesizes that health anxiety, test anxiety, and social anxiety significantly contribute to the general anxiety experienced by Indonesian madrasah students.

3. Methods

This research uses a quantitative method with a cross-sectional survey. The cross-sectional survey is a type of survey research that analyzes research variables formulated at a predetermined time, population, and sample (39–41). This study aims to describe school anxiety, including several aspects of exam anxiety, social anxiety, and health anxiety.

The subjects in this study were students at the Madrasah Tsanawiyah level or junior secondary level. The research location is located in the madrasa of East Java. The subjects in this study were divided into several categories, namely specific programs, Ma'had, and regular students. The sampling technique in this study used random cluster sampling. By dividing the types of several research subjects, subjects were randomly selected based on their respective clusters.

This study used a school anxiety instrument containing several aspects, including; 1) Test anxiety, 2) health anxiety, and 3) social anxiety. The instrument are the likert scale which have 15 items for each anxiety forms. The instrument are reliable with the Alpha cronbach at 0.782 (Test Anxiety), 0.698 (Health Anxiety), 0,745 (Social anxiety) and General School Anxiety Foms.. The analysis in this study uses descriptive analysis and factor analysis graphs. Descriptive analysis of the event description of anxiety and graph analysis describes the factors contributing to school students' anxiety at Madrasah Tsanawiyah in East Java, Indonesia.

4. Results

5.1 Description of students' school anxiety forms in Madrasah

The results of this study include descriptive data on school anxiety. The results of his research are as follows.

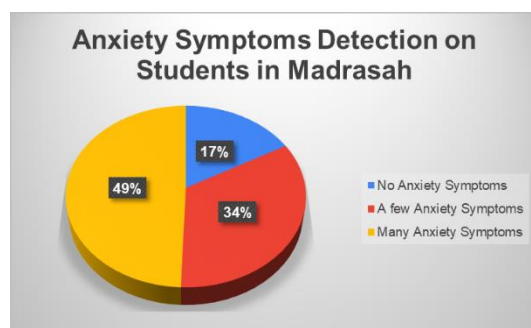


Figure 1. Anxiety symptoms identification

The figure 1 shows that 49% experienced high school anxiety, 34% experienced moderate school anxiety, and 17% experienced low school anxiety. More specifically, the results of this study further indicate several factors that trigger the emergence of school anxiety in students in madrasah.

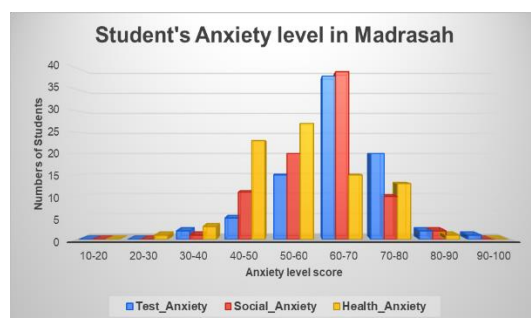


Figure 2. Student's Anxiety level in Madrasah

Based on the table shows that social anxiety is the highest anxiety that occurs in students in madrasah, then exam anxiety and health anxiety are the lowest factors that occur in students.

5.2 Regresion analyses of school anxiety forms

The following analysis stage is linear regression testing to measure the effect of each form of anxiety on students' anxiety symptoms in Madrasahs. The research data met the prerequisite tests: (1) the data

were normally distributed, (2) the data between linear variables, (3) multicollinearity did not occur, and (4) there were no signs of heteroscedasticity. The results of the regression test can be displayed in table 1. and table 2. These results are then presented as a chart of the influence between variables in Figure 3

Table 1. Regression model test results 1

Model Summary ^b				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.508 ^a	.258	.230	18.44782

a. Predictors: (Constant), Health_Anx, Test_Anx, Social_Anx
 b. Dependent Variable: Anx_Symptoms

Source: Authors

Table 2. Regression coefficient test result 2

Coefficients ^a								
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	Collinearity Statistics	
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)	-1.005	16.042		-.063	.950		
	Test_Anx	.222	.249	.101	.891	.376	.724	1.380
	Social_Anx	.402	.265	.183	1.518	.133	.645	1.549
	Health_Anx	.633	.197	.346	3.218	.002	.811	1.234

a. Dependent Variable: Anx_Symptoms

Source: Authors

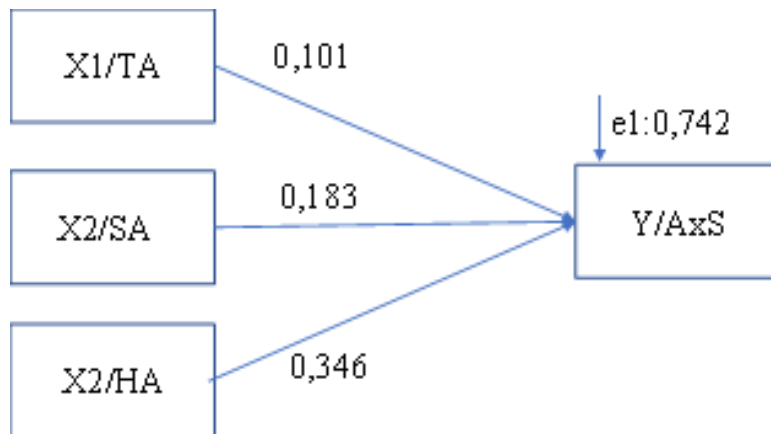


Figure 3. Regression model of student school anxiety

The data results show the coefficient of each anxiety factor. The data show that school anxiety contributes on 10,1%; school anxiety contribute 18,3%; and health anxiety contribute 34,6% to the anxiety symptoms. In addition, there is still 74,2% of other factors affect school anxiety of Madrasah Tsanawiyah students in Indonesia.

5. Discussion

Anxiety at school is a psychological disorder in the form of excessive fear in dealing with school situations. Anxiety is always triggered by various factors (42–44). This study shows that anxiety occurs due to certain factors in Madrasah Tsanawiyah students. Madrasah Tsanawiyah students have some special conditions compared to other schools. For example, with special programs such as Islamic boarding schools and superior classes. This condition causes some potential anxiety in students; 49% experience high anxiety, 34% experience moderate anxiety, and 17% others. This data means that the number of students' anxiety in Madrasah tends to be high.

Factors that affect anxiety include anxiety, health anxiety, and social anxiety. This study shows that social anxiety in students is the highest factor compared to other factors. To develop and manage schools, several Madrasah Tsanawiyah in Indonesia makes boarding school programs or schools with boarding facilities (26,45). Islamic boarding schools implemented in educational institutions offer assistance in more optimal student development (10,46). Parents have high expectations to try to catch up and participate in programs supporting more optimal development. Some of the impacts that occur when a child's readiness and mentality are not prepared before joining a boarding school include difficulties in developing, adapting to adaptation, loneliness, to depression (34,47,48). Social problems are a major concern for students in the boarding school program.

Unusual conditions since the COVID-19 pandemic present an alternative form of learning interaction (12,43,49). E-learning settings may reduce interaction between students and interactions with teachers, thereby triggering different conditions for students. A study shows that interpersonal communication between students can provide mutually supportive interactions between students (50–52). This problem refers to social anxiety that occurs in students who forget to support each other in class, such as when face-to-face takes place.

Social anxiety often has a negative impact on someone. Someone who experiences social anxiety is often preoccupied with negative assumptions. People with social anxiety often think they are negatively assessed by others and rejected by the environment (53–55). The fear of being evaluated by others causes the individual to change behavior. From the cognitive-behavioral perspective, fear of negative evaluation from others occurs because individuals maintain a series of distorted cognitions (56,57). Upon entering social situations, individuals with social anxiety have developed assumptions about themselves and their social world based on past experiences. If left unchecked, this deviant cognition causes behavioral deviations such as avoiding social interactions (58,59).

In addition, social anxiety occurs because of several triggers, namely: (a) Willingness to be someone perfect in a social environment; for example, I have to look smart, (b) conditional beliefs about the consequences of his behavior, for example, if I am silent, other people don't, some of these triggers if I continue to be distorted in individual thoughts and feelings will potentially lead to social phobia conditions (57,60,61). More specifically, the perceived burden can increase social fear and hinder students' social performance, resulting in cognitions and behaviors contributing to the generation of interpersonal stress. Cognitive behavioral therapy of socially phobic children focusing on cognition: a randomised wait-list control study.

As a form of assistance, it is necessary to understand that social support for students has a vital role in inhibiting or overcoming social anxiety. In direct learning settings, several interactions emerge that

trigger social support. The social support that occurs in school settings, for example, by teachers or peers. Direct interaction will bring trust, understanding, concern, and empathy (33,62,63). This interaction will provide feedback on any pressures in the classroom setting so that he can improve his self-assessment and avoid insecurity in dealing with anxiety at school. Therefore, social support needs to be created for students with the treatment that high social support tends to experience less anxiety facing exams than their peers.

In addition to the pesantren program, education under the auspices of religion presents special class programs to produce highly competent students (64–67). In this condition, the mastery of success in achieving optimal achievement is higher than that of regular program students. This result is measured from the examinations for special and regular program students having different standards. There is an assumption that this will factor into high exam anxiety. This study shows that exam anxiety is a factor that contributes 10.1% among all other aspects. This data means that the test anxiety factor occurs in some Madrasah Tsanawiyah students.

Test anxiety occurs at various ages and levels of education. Test anxiety usually increases with increasing pressure from the school environment (68–70). Previous research has shown that exam anxiety affects the exam system. Specifically, this study reveals students' motivation toward school demands has long-term implications for employment and access to further education. On the other hand, the education system plays an essential role in fostering a competitive learning environment and one that prioritizes academic performance and success.

Test anxiety, seen from a cognitive point of view, is triggered by experiences with many mistakes, lack of confidence, and rumination of failure (71–73). This concept is also supported by empirical findings showing that test anxiety and perfectionism fear are positively related to fear of failure (74,75). Therefore, students who set high standards and have high expectations for themselves are more likely to experience exam anxiety. Specifically, exam anxiety is indicated by high anxiety because they are preoccupied with mistakes, have more doubts about their performance, and are more concerned with the high expectations of others. Given this condition, those with high exam anxiety need assistance by looking at the potential that exam anxiety causes a decrease in quality or ability (76–78).

Health anxiety is one factor that arises in Madrasah students in Indonesia. Based on a psychosocial point of view, health anxiety is influenced by several factors, including; (1) having offspring who suffer from hereditary diseases, 2) experiencing certain conditions in childhood (79–81). Family social learning when dealing with maladaptive illness, the experience of events related to certain diseases, and parental anxiety when facing illness are factors that trigger health anxiety (56,82). From a cognitive point of view, when facing certain body conditions, there are mental and behavioral dysfunctional responses, and interpretation of the type of disease increases anxiety in a person (83–85). The emergence of health anxiety in Madrasah Tsanawiyah students is under management beliefs, preferences about specific conditions, and experiences gained from families during the life process.

This study specifically photographed the anxiety conditions that occurred among Madrasah Tsanawiyah students. The influencing factors are exam requirements, social interactions, and illness concerns. The emergence of anxiety at school is due to external situations and how students respond to demands. Madrasah Tsanawiyah, with special programs such as pesantren and superior classes, needs to deal with psychological assistance such as alleviating potential anxiety. With the existing

conditions of social anxiety, Guidance and counseling need to be at the forefront in initiating alternative services that can help alleviate various anxiety problems by considering multiple underlying factors.

6. Conclusions

Madrasah Tsanawiyah has several special programs to maximize students' potential. Boarding schools and superior classes are special programs offered to facilitate optimal content for students. Special programs, with all their visions and missions, formulate positive outcomes for students, but those with high achievements need to consider the negative potential due to high achievement pressure. This study aims to reveal the anxiety that occurs in madrasah Tsanawiyah students. Finally, the quantitative survey results showed the emergence of anxiety; namely, 49% experienced high school anxiety, 34% experienced moderate school anxiety, and 17% experienced low school anxiety. Based on the factors of occurrence of anxiety include social anxiety, health anxiety, and exam anxiety. Examination anxiety has a magnitude of 0.101%; social anxiety contributes 0.183% to student anxiety, and event anxiety contributes 0.346% to student anxiety. Besides that, 0.742% of other factors influence school anxiety in students at Madrasah Tsanawiyah. With this condition, it is necessary to consider counseling teachers in schools to oversee the psychological side of students so that the constraints on special program policies at madrasah can be resolved.

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Conflict of interest

There is no conflict of Interest in this research process and publication.

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