

Analysis of Parents Interest in Enrolling Their Children at SDN 7 PAJO

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ABSTRACT

Interest is the impulse or desire of an individual towards an object that attracts his attention. In the context of education, interest has an important role in the sustainability of the institution. Low interest can have an impact on the decline of the existence of these educational institutions. In general, interest can be influenced by two factors, namely internal factors that come from within the individual, and external factors that come from the outside environment. This study aims to analyze the level of public interest in sending children to school at SDN 7 Pajo. This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach with data collection techniques through observation, interviews, and documentation. This approach is intended to explore in depth the factors that encourage people to choose SDN 7 Pajo Dompus Regency as the place of education for their children. Data is analyzed through the process of reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawn. Data validity is strengthened through triangulation of sources, time, and techniques, as well as increased diligence in data collection. The results of the study show that public interest in sending children to SDN 7 Pajo is still at a moderate level. This is reflected in the fact that 50% of parents whose children graduated from Aisyiah Kindergarten choose to send their children to schools that have more and varied religious lessons, and have better quality standards and services, for example at SDIT Imam Buhari, MI Alkautsar, SDIT Hilmi, and SDN 20 Dompus. The factors that affect this interest consist of two groups, namely: 1) internal factors such as motivation and individual needs, and 2) external factors such as family environment, economy and quality of education.

Keywords: Parental Interest, SDN 7 Pajo, Basic Education, Motivation Factors.

INTRODUCTION

Education is a fundamental aspect of human life and plays a central role in shaping the quality of individuals and the progress of a nation. In social life, education is not only seen as a process of knowledge transfer, but also as a means of character building, instilling moral values, and shaping a well-rounded personality¹. Therefore, education is a basic need that must be fulfilled by every individual from an early age. In the current global context, where science and technology continue to develop rapidly, the role of education is increasingly vital in creating human resources that are superior and adaptive to the changing times.

The progress of a country cannot be separated from the quality of its education. Developed countries generally have strong education systems that are oriented towards the comprehensive development of students' potential. Education fosters the creation of a smart, productive society with a high level of social awareness. In other words, education contributes to economic progress, political stability, and the preservation of culture within society. Therefore, improving the quality of education, including at the elementary school

¹ Muhammad Ali Ramdhani, "Lingkungan Pendidikan Dalam Implementasi Pendidikan Karakter," *Jurnal pendidikan universitas garut* 8, no. 1 (2014): 28–37,

level such as SDN 7 Pajo in Dompu Regency, is an important step in building the nation's future.

Trianto said that education is a form of human culture that keeps evolving with the times². Education that is unable to adapt to cultural and social developments will lose its relevance. Thus, change and innovation in education are inevitable. The objectives of Indonesia's national education system have been clearly outlined in Law No. 20 of 2003 on the National Education System, particularly in Article 3, which states that the national education system aims to develop the potential of students to become individuals who are faithful, pious, of noble character, healthy, knowledgeable, skilled, creative, independent, and responsible democratic citizens³.

The noble goal of education is in line with the nature of humans as beings with intellectual, spiritual, and social potential. Education is an important means of developing this potential so that individuals can live better and more meaningful lives. Especially for children, primary school education is the foundation that determines the success of education at the next level. Therefore, parents' choice of the right elementary school greatly influences their children's development and future⁴. Education itself takes place in three main environments, namely the family, school, and community. All three play important and complementary roles. The family is the first and primary educational environment⁵. It is in this environment that children first learn moral values, social norms, and other good habits.

In addition to the family, school becomes the second formal environment that systematically conducts the learning process. At school, children not only acquire academic knowledge but also learn to interact socially, collaborate, and understand their roles in community life. In the context of SDN 7 Pajo, the school plays a crucial role in developing students' potential intellectually, emotionally, and socially through various learning activities and character development programs. Equally important is the community environment, which also shapes children's attitudes, habits, and worldviews. A community that supports education creates a conducive learning environment for children, both inside and outside of school. Therefore, synergy between family, school, and community is the key to the success of children's education⁶.

In 1993, formal education in Indonesia underwent a significant change with the emergence of Integrated Islamic Schools (SIT). The first integrated Islamic school to be established as a pioneer was SDIT Nurul Fikri Jakarta. The impact of the Integrated Islamic School has garnered considerable public interest, as the school has successfully shaped students' character traits such as honesty and responsibility through the integration of Islamic values (memorization of the Quran, moral conduct), while also enhancing intellectual development and fostering positive social behavior⁷.

² Muhammad Anwar, *Filsafat Pendidikan* (Jakarta: Kencana Prenada, 2015).

³ Aulia Anggit Hanwita, "Implementasi Projek Penguatan Profil Pelajar Pancasila (P5) Tema Kewirausahaan Kelas IV SD," in *Prosiding Dewantara Seminar Nasional Pendidikan*, vol. 2, 2023, accessed June 24, 2025, <https://seminar.ustjogja.ac.id/index.php/d-semnasdik/article/view/1851>.

⁴ Dasman Yanuri, "Minat Masyarakat Menyekolahkan Anaknya Ke Sekolah Menengah Pertama (SMP) Dan Madrasah Tsanawiyah (MTS) Di Kecamatan Semidang Gumay Kabupaten Kaur," *Al-Bahtsu: Jurnal Penelitian Pendidikan Islam* 1, no. 2 (2016).

⁵ Wina Sanjaya, *Perencanaan Dan Desain Sistem Pembelajaran* (Kencana, 2015), accessed June 24, 2025,

⁶ Amirulloh Syarbini, *Model Pendidikan Karakter Dalam Keluarga* (Elex Media Komputindo, 2014), accessed June 24, 2025,

⁷ Aminulloh Aminulloh, "Pengembangan Instrumen Supervisi Guru Al-Qur'an Dalam Meningkatkan Mutu Pembelajaran Al-Qur'an Di SDIT Nurul Fikri Depok" (PhD Thesis, Universitas PTIQ Jakarta, 2023), accessed June 24, 2025, <https://repository.ptiq.ac.id/id/eprint/1794/>.

Since the emergence of integrated Islamic schools, Madrasah Ibtidaiyah, including educational institutions, has received positive perceptions from the community as the school of choice for their children because it offers religious education that provides a solution to their concerns in educating their children. As stated in the *Alqalam Journal*, parents' rationality in choosing SDIT is influenced by Islamic teachings and affective values (comfort), not by seeking academically excellent schools, but by ensuring religious education and character building⁸.

Based on initial interviews conducted by researchers with the head of the Aisyiah Kindergarten located in Pajo Hamlet, Lepadi Village, more than half (>50%) of parents chose to send their children to schools outside SDN 7 Pajo, namely elementary schools located in the city of Dompu, such as SDN 20 Dompu, SDIT Imam Buhari, SDIT Hilmi, or MI Al-Kautsar in Ranggo Village. The factors contributing to the low interest are generally perceived as the school being of lower quality and having fewer religious education classes compared to other schools outside Lepadi Village.

These observations reveal a phenomenon in which parents' interest in sending their children to SDN 7 Pajo has declined, especially those living in the area surrounding the school, namely the communities of Pajo Hamlet and Lepadi Hamlet. Based on this, the research team chose the title "Analysis of Parents' Interest in Sending Their Children to SDN 7 Pajo" for their research.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach that aims to provide an overview of the conditions in the field through words rather than numbers. The descriptive approach is used to describe the situation or phenomenon that is occurring at the time of the study, while also exploring the factors causing the observed symptoms. This type of research is field research, conducted directly in the community surrounding SDN 7 Pajo. This descriptive qualitative research falls under the social sciences, focusing on the collection and analysis of data in the form of narratives, both oral and written, as well as the behavior exhibited by participants. The researcher does not measure data in numerical form but rather seeks to understand the meaning behind the actions, views, and responses of the community in depth⁹.

This method allows researchers to describe a phenomenon in detail and comprehensively in accordance with reality. The main objective of this approach is to understand how public interest is formed and developed in the context of sending their children to SDN 7 Pajo. In other words, this study aims to record the reality on the ground in its entirety, based on data obtained directly through observation, interviews, and documentation. To support the analysis process, the researcher uses the Miles and Huberman data analysis model, which consists of three main stages: data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions/verification.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

SDN 7 Pajo is located in Pajo Hamlet, Lepadi Village, Pajo Subdistrict, Dompu Regency. The school was established on July 1, 1982, with 27 teachers, 89 students, six classrooms, a principal's office, a teachers' room, toilets, a prayer room, and a playground. The school's vision is "Outstanding Students in Achievement Based on IMTAQ and IPTEK,"

⁸ Millena Apriliani Rusadi and Agus Machfud Fauzi, "Rasionalitas Orang Tua Dalam Memilih Sekolah Anak Di Sekolah Dasar Islam Terpadu (SDIT)," *Al-Qalam: Jurnal Kajian Islam dan Pendidikan* 14, no. 1 (2022): 40–45, accessed June 24, 2025, <https://journal.uiad.ac.id/index.php/al-qalam/article/view/711>.

⁹ A. Afrizal, "Metode Penelitian Kualitatif: Sebuah Upaya Untuk Mendukung Penggunaan Penelitian Kualitatif Dalam Berbagai Disiplin Ilmu.," *PT Raja Grafindo* (2014).

while its mission is (a) to conduct learning and guidance effectively and efficiently (b) to improve teacher quality (c) Improving learning planning and evaluation (d) Providing special guidance for high-achieving students and students with learning difficulties (e) Fostering harmony between the school and the school committee (f) Enhancing religious guidance so that students become people of faith and piety; and (g) Improving the environment to be clean, cool, comfortable, safe, and peaceful.

Public Interest in Enrolling Children at SDN 7 Pajo

According to John Dewey, as quoted by Abdullah Idi, education is a social process that takes place in various types of societies. In developing an ideal education system, there are two main things that need to be considered, namely the extent to which the desires or interests of the community can be fulfilled, and how freedom of interaction and communication can be exercised without causing social disruption.

Thus, community interest can be understood as the motivation or desire to achieve something, including in the context of enrolling children in school. This interest is an important factor that motivates the community in making decisions related to their children's education. In addition, interest also influences the success of achieving educational goals. Based on interviews with the principal and teachers of SDN 7 Pajo, there are several strategies implemented by the school in order to increase parents' interest in sending their children to SDN 7 Pajo.

1. Socialization and Promotion

In the context of SDN 7 Pajo, the school, especially the principal and the teaching team, actively socializes with the surrounding community, such as visiting residents' homes in the area around the school and participating in social activities carried out by the surrounding community. This outreach aims to help parents understand and develop an interest in enrolling their children at SDN 7 Pajo. However, many parents remain reluctant to enroll their children at SDN 7 Pajo due to certain preferences (RM, May 5, 2025).

Meanwhile, the school has not yet utilized promotional media such as social media, Instagram, YouTube, and other modern platforms to increase parents' interest and appeal in enrolling their children at SDN 7 Pajo (Ln, May 5, 2025). SDN 7 Pajo's reluctance to use social media as a channel for socialization and promotion has significantly impacted the low interest of the community in the school compared to other schools. Social media now plays a crucial role in business marketing management and has even become a marketing tool for education¹⁰. The benefits of social media, according to Puntodi as quoted by Doni Juni Priansa, are as follows:¹¹

First, personal branding. Various social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube can be used as a medium for communication, discussion, and even gaining popularity. Second, marketing. Fantastic marketing results can be achieved by using social media as a promotional tool. Third, closer interaction. Social media can be used to interact more closely with consumers/customers on a personal level and build deeper interest. Fourth, Social Media Has a Viral Nature. Information from social media can spread quickly from one social media user to another.

¹⁰ Neneng Nurmalasari and Imas Masitoh, "Manajemen Strategik Pemasaran Pendidikan Berbasis Media Sosial," *Journal of Management Review* 4, no. 3 (2020): 543–548, accessed June 24, 2025, <https://jurnal.unigal.ac.id/managementreview/article/view/4524>.

¹¹ Donni Juni Priansa, "Komunikasi Pemasaran Terpadu Pada Era Media Sosial," *Bandung: CV Pustaka Setia* 358 (2017).

2. Coordination and Cooperation

Coordination is an activity that involves cooperation between various parties to share information and harmonize actions for the smooth implementation of tasks and the achievement of common goals. Coordination and cooperation play an important role and are relevant to a person's interest in something. According to experts, interest does not arise suddenly, but develops from a person's experiences, habits, and participation in an activity. Interest is also closely related to an individual's needs and desires. At the initial stage, interest arises from a person's attention to something, which then sparks a desire to get involved. Interest will grow stronger if the experiences gained are positive and enjoyable.

Munandar, as cited by Ahmad Susanto, states that the development of interest occurs gradually in line with an individual's maturity, both physically and psychologically. At the initial stage, interest tends to be self-centered, then develops into attention toward others and the surrounding environment¹². In its implementation at SDN 7 Pajo, the principal has been less active in coordinating with various parties, including the village head, village institutions, religious leaders, and community leaders, to promote the school and increase community interest in enrolling their children at SDN 7 Pajo. According to the principal, so far, the school has only established a partnership with the Mountras Central Waste Bank to minimize plastic waste and prevent future soil contamination¹³.

3. Varied Learning Methods

According to an interview with a teacher¹⁴, to improve the quality of learning at SDN 7 Pajo, teachers use a variety of teaching methods tailored to the learning styles of the children, rather than relying solely on monotonous lecture-style methods. To deepen their understanding of IPAS, children are often taken to open spaces such as rice fields, gardens, or social environments to learn directly through observation, note-taking, group discussions, and activity report writing under teacher guidance. As stated by several experts, a teacher's ability to apply varied teaching methods will meet the needs of students. Furthermore, Sudarso states that teachers who apply varied learning methods will improve students' learning outcomes (Sudarso, 2015). This is reinforced by Simanjuntak, who states that the application of varied learning methods will create a pleasant atmosphere¹⁵.

4. Faith and Piety Development

Imtaq activities and character building only take place once a week, on Fridays. Children are taught prayers, given advice on manners and ethics, politeness, obedience to Allah and the Prophet, and obedience to their parents¹⁶. This aligns with Muhaimin's view that education emphasizing faith and piety development positively impacts students' moral character, discipline, and learning motivation, ultimately enhancing educational quality¹⁷.

5. School Achievements

SDN 7 offers several extracurricular activities to develop children's interests and talents, including: Scouting, dance, storytelling in the local language, marching, and others.

¹² Ahmad Susanto, *Teori Belajar Dan Pembelajaran* (Jakarta: Kencana Prenada, 2019).

¹³ RM, "Interview," June 5, 2025.

¹⁴ RH, "Interview," June 5, 2025.

¹⁵ Syahli Lastri, Sudarno Sudarno, and Ajat Sudrajat, "The Effect of Academic Supervision and Organizational Culture on Teacher Performance," *Jurnal PAJAR (Pendidikan dan Pengajaran)* 7, no. 5 (2023): 1027–1036.

¹⁶ LN, "Interview," June 2025.

¹⁷ Haji Muhaimin, "Reaktualisasi Pendidikan Islam: Dari Paradigma Pengembangan, Manajemen Kelembagaan, Kurikulum Hingga Strategi Pembelajaran," *Jakarta: Rajawali Pers* (2009).

The results achieved through the cultivation of children's interests and talents at SD 7 have led to several achievements, including first place in the 2024 Regional Language Speech Competition, first place in the 2025 Regional Language Speaking Competition organized by the Regional Library Office in collaboration with the Education and Culture Office of Dompu District, and previously winning first place in the 2023 Marching Competition. Although various efforts have been made by the school to improve the quality of education and parents' interest in sending their children to SDN 7 Pajo, to date, half of school-age children (aged 6 years) still choose to attend other schools¹⁸.

Factors Affecting People's Interest in Sending Their Children to School

In general, factors that influence the emergence of interest can be divided into two categories: internal factors that originate from within the individual, and external factors that come from the individual's external environment. Saifudin Djamarah, as quoted by Susilowati Rahma, also argues that interest can arise naturally from within, but often requires external encouragement¹⁹. Based on interviews with several informants, there are several factors that influence parents' interest in sending their children to SDN 7 Pajo, namely:

1. Religious Education

The prevalence of news about social and humanitarian crimes as a phenomenon of moral decadence among children and adolescents is very worrying for parents. They do not want their children to fall into promiscuity that could destroy their future. For example, a parent from Pajo Hamlet, Lepadi Village, who sends his child to MI Al-Kautsar, Ranggo, stated:

"I enrolled my child in MI Al-Kautsar because the religious education there is quite intensive, including the Quran, hadith, Tahfiz, memorization of prayers, and prayer practice. In addition, there are also general subjects such as mathematics, science, and social studies. With a strong foundation in religious education, we hope our children will have the tools to navigate the increasingly challenging currents of crime, especially in this digital age where all kinds of information both good and bad is readily available, such as pornography, online gambling, and violent games. Without a sufficient religious foundation, our children's moral compass could be severely compromised"²⁰.

The opinion of the parent above is supported by the opinion of another parent:

"I enrolled my child in SDIT Imam Buhari because it has a high-quality religious curriculum, teaches memorization of the Qur'an and Hadith, and teaches prayer in accordance with the example set by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). I am happy that my child can memorize the Qur'an, Juz 30. Meanwhile, at SDN 7 Pajo, the curriculum is standardized by the government and cannot be altered"²¹.

This opinion is supported by other research findings, which indicate that the lack of religious education significantly influences parents' interest in enrolling their children in public elementary schools, as parents now want to raise their children to become better individuals in the future by instilling strong religious knowledge. Previous research also states that there are many advantages to religious-based schools compared to formal schools in general. Parents today prefer to send their children to schools with the best quality, especially in the field of religion, such as Integrated Islamic Elementary Schools (SDIT). SDIT is an educational institution that instills general educational values and strengthens

¹⁸ RK, "Interview," June 10, 2025.

¹⁹ Rahma Susilowati, "Faktor-Faktor Yang Mempengaruhi Minat Orang Tua Menyekolahkan Anaknya Ke Jenjang Sekolah Menengah Kejuruan DiKecamatan Berbah Sleman Yogyakarta," *Skripsi, Yogyakarta: Universitas Yogyakarta* (2012).

²⁰ HM, "Interview," June 11, 2025.

²¹ AS, "Interview," June 11, 2025.

education in the field of religion²².

2. Character Education

Based on the results of observations conducted by researchers on some of the children at SDN 7 Pajo, it was often found that they used harsh language and behaved rudely, using foul language, compared to children from other schools (MI Al-Kautsar, SDIT Imam Buhari, SDIT Hilmi). This situation has led to a low interest among parents in enrolling their children at SDN 7 Pajo.

According to Zayadi, the sources of values applicable in human life are categorized into two types: first, divine values, which are values related to divinity or *habl minallah*, where the core of divinity is religion. Activities aimed at instilling religious values form the core of educational activities²³. Second, *Insaniyah* values are values related to fellow human beings or *hablum minannās*, which include good character²⁴.

As an example, there are 10 religious characteristics instilled in the students of SDIT Qurrota A'yun Ponorogo, all of which are derived from the Qur'an and the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad SAW, including: 1) *Salimul Aqidah*, having a pure creed free from anything that draws one closer to or leads one into the pit of *shirk*. 2) *Shahihul Ibadah*: Correct worship according to the Quran and Sunnah, and free from all innovations that could lead them astray. 3) *Matinul Khuluq*: Noble character, enabling them to exhibit an appealing personality and convince everyone that Islam is a mercy for all creation (*rahmatan lil alamin*). 4) *Qowiyyul Jismi*, Physically Strong so that he can manage all matters related to his physical well-being, which is a trust/gift from Allah SWT. 5) *Mutsaqoful Fikri*, Broad-Minded so that he can grasp various information and developments occurring around him. 6) *Qodirun 'alal Kasbi*, Capable of striving, making him an independent-minded person who refuses to depend on others to meet his basic needs. 7) *Mujahidun linafsihi*, Sincere in his heart, enabling him to maximize every opportunity or event, thereby benefiting himself and others. 8) *Haritsun 'ala waqtihi*, Efficient in utilizing time, making them someone who refuses to waste time doing good, even for a second. Because the time we use during our lives will be accounted for before Allah SWT. 9) *Munazhom Fii Su'unihi*, Organized in his affairs, making his life orderly in all matters of responsibility and trust. He can resolve all his issues effectively and appropriately. 10) *Naafi'un Li Ghairihi*, Beneficial to others, making him a person who is useful and needed. His presence will bring joy to others, and his absence will be missed by others²⁵.

3. Discipline

Based on interviews with parents, SDIT students are more disciplined in terms of arriving at and leaving school on time, dressing appropriately, studying, and rarely skip school. None of them wear sandals²⁶. Meanwhile, based on direct observations conducted by the researcher, students at SDN 7 were still found to wear sandals when going to school or frequently skip school. Some teachers still often leave their teaching hours during school

²² Millena Apriliani Rusadi and Agus Machfud Fauzi, "Rasionalitas Orang Tua Dalam Memilih Sekolah Anak Di Sekolah Dasar Islam Terpadu (SDIT)," *Al-Qalam: Jurnal Kajian Islam dan Pendidikan* 14, no. 1 (2022): 40–45, accessed June 24, 2025, <https://journal.uiad.ac.id/index.php/al-qalam/article/view/711>.

²³ Rusadi and Fauzi, "Rasionalitas Orang Tua Dalam Memilih Sekolah Anak Di Sekolah Dasar Islam Terpadu (SDIT)," 93.

²⁴ Rusadi and Fauzi, "Rasionalitas Orang Tua Dalam Memilih Sekolah Anak Di Sekolah Dasar Islam Terpadu (SDIT)," 95.

²⁵ Khusnul Khotimah, "Model Manajemen Pendidikan Karakter Religius Di SDIT Qurrota A'yun Ponorogo," *Muslim Heritage* 1, no. 2 (2016): 371–388,

²⁶ HJ, "Interview," June 11, 2025.

hours for other purposes. In this regard, other authors explain that discipline is essentially sincere obedience supported by awareness to fulfill duties and obligations and behave appropriately according to the rules established by the authorized institution²⁷.

4. Extracurricular Activities

Based on observations conducted by researchers during the second semester of 2025 and reinforced by interviews with parents²⁸, SDN 7 Pajo rarely conducts extracurricular activities, except during preparations for national holidays such as August 17 and other important days. SDIT and other elementary schools in the city offer a variety of extracurricular activities aimed at developing skills, organizational abilities, leadership, and physical fitness, such as scouting, sports, outdoor activities, community service camps, inter-class competitions, and others. This aligns with the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia Regulation No. 62 of 2004 on Extracurricular Activities in Elementary and Secondary Education. Articles 1 and 2 state that extracurricular activities are curricular activities conducted by students outside regular class hours under the guidance and supervision of the educational institution. Extracurricular activities play a significant role in shaping students' character. Through participation in activities such as sports, arts, literature, technology, and student organizations, they acquire valuable skills such as teamwork, leadership, discipline, and responsibility. These experiences help them face real-world challenges with confidence and a positive attitude.

Additionally, extracurricular activities provide a platform for students to explore their personal interests and talents. Some students may discover a passion for music, visual arts, or even science outside the classroom. This is where they can develop their potential more deeply, experience achievements, and build a unique identity²⁹.

5. Facilities and Infrastructure

Based on observations, SDN 7 Pajo is a fairly beautiful, neat, and clean school, but on the other hand, it still lacks educational support facilities. The facilities at SDN 7 consist only of six classrooms, a principal's office, a teachers' room, and do not yet have a library, canteen, or health room. There is a prayer room, but its condition is poor. Additionally, the textbook ratio is still 1:2 (one book for every two students).

Based on interviews with parents of students at SDIT Imam Buhari, they stated that the educational facilities at their children's school are more complete and of higher quality compared to SDN 7 Pajo. This is the reason they chose SDIT and other schools in Dompu City, such as SDN 1 and SDN 20 Dompu (interview with As, June 10, 2025). This opinion aligns with the fact that the availability of educational support facilities not only supports the learning process but also plays a significant role in shaping the school's image in the community. Parents tend to choose schools with complete facilities because they are perceived as capable of providing the best experience for students. School facilities such as buildings, parking lots, sports facilities, and transportation services have a significant influence on parents' decisions when choosing a school³⁰.

²⁷ DINA ARUM MAWADAH, "Kedisiplinan Siswa Dalam Menaati Tata Tertib Pada Sekolah Berpendidikan Semi Militer Di Smkn 1 Jetis Kabupaten Mojokerto," *Kajian Moral Dan Kewarganegaraan* 7, no. 2 (2019),

²⁸ HJ, "Interview."

²⁹ Intan Oktaviani Agustina, Juliantika Juliantika, and Selly Ade Saputri, "Peran Kegiatan Ekstrakurikuler Dalam Pembinaan Dan Pengembangan Siswa Sekolah Dasar," *Jurnal Bintang Pendidikan Indonesia* 1, no. 4 (2023): 86–96

³⁰ Salma Salfiah et al., "Analisis Faktor Yang Mempengaruhi Keputusan Orang Tua Dalam Memilih

6. Teacher Professionalism

Some parents generally assess the ability of teachers at SDN 7 Pajo to carry out learning activities as still low, because there are still many teachers with temporary status, numbering 16 out of a total of 27 teachers. As educators, they rarely receive education and training to enhance their capacity and professionalism. This aligns with the view that a professional teacher is one who possesses the competencies required to perform educational and teaching duties. In other words, it can be concluded that a professional teacher is someone who has specialized skills and expertise in the field of education, enabling them to perform their duties and functions as a teacher to the best of their ability³¹. In creating quality education, teachers who have high qualifications, competence, and dedication in carrying out their professional duties are very much needed. Teachers are the key to the success of an educational institution³².

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research conducted with a focus on community interest in enrolling children at SDN 7 Pajo, the following conclusions can be drawn. First, community interest in enrolling children at SDN 7 Pajo is moderate, neither high nor low. This is due to several factors, such as the limited religious education curriculum, which is constrained by the government-mandated curriculum. Currently, parents prefer to enroll their children in Islamic elementary schools (SDIT) or schools that prioritize religious education, particularly the memorization of the Quran and Hadith, in the hope of enhancing their children's understanding and practice of religious teachings amid the growing trend of moral decline. Additionally, the school's facilities are still limited, it rarely holds extracurricular activities to develop students' interests and talents, it has not utilized social media as a promotional tool, and the number of professional teachers is still limited. Second, efforts to increase parental interest are crucial by improving the quality and service standards of education to align with the growing complex needs of children's development. In addition, it is necessary to promote the school using social media, because schools that actively promote themselves through social media can increase the interest of parents and students in pursuing education at that school.

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³¹ Rusman, *Manajemen Kurikulum* (Jakarta: Rajawali Press, 2019).

³² Wachidi Wachidi, Adrian Rodgers, and Dmitriy Yu Tumanov, "Professional Competence Understanding Level of Elementary School in Implementing Curriculum 2013," *International Journal of Educational Review* 2, no. 1 (2020): 99–105.

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