



## The Role of LPTQ in Enhancing the Achievements of Qari and Qari'ah : A Case Study in Kerinci

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**Abstract.** *This study aims to analyze the role of the Institute for the Development of Qur'anic Recitation (LPTQ) in enhancing the achievements of qari and qariah. LPTQ plays a crucial role as an institution not only responsible for organizing the Musabaqah Tilawatil Qur'an (MTQ) but also in supporting the continuous development of qari and qariah in various aspects, including recitation techniques, understanding of tajwid, and building confidence. This study uses a qualitative approach with a case study method, collecting data through in-depth interviews, observations, and document analysis. The role of LPTQ in enhancing the achievements of qari and qariah includes organizing the Musabaqah Tilawatil Qur'an, improving the quality of Qur'an reading, writing, and interpretation, holding selection/STQ events, and conducting Training Centers (TC). These findings indicate that LPTQ contributes significantly to improving the quality and achievements of qari and qariah in MTQ competitions. However, there are still obstacles that LPTQ Kerinci faces in increasing the achievements of qari and qariah, such as limited funds and resources, a shortage of qualified trainers, insufficient training facilities, limited training time, lack of government support, and a lack of tiered training programs. Recommendations from this study include increasing budget allocations, providing professional trainers, and developing sustainable programs to ensure the quality and continuity of LPTQ coaching.*

**Keywords:** *Achievements, LPTQ, MTQ, Prestasi, Qari/Qari'ah*

**Abstrak.** Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis peran Lembaga Pengembangan Tilawatil Qur'an (LPTQ) dalam meningkatkan prestasi qari dan qariah. LPTQ memiliki peran penting sebagai lembaga yang tidak hanya bertanggung jawab atas pelaksanaan Musabaqah Tilawatil Qur'an (MTQ), tetapi juga mendukung pembinaan berkelanjutan bagi para qari dan qariah dalam berbagai aspek, termasuk teknik membaca, pemahaman tajwid, dan kepercayaan diri. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode studi kasus, mengumpulkan data melalui wawancara mendalam, observasi, dan analisis dokumen. Peran LPTQ dalam meningkatkan prestasi qari dan qariah dilakukan dengan berbagai hal seperti menyelenggarakan Musabaqah Tilawatil Qur'an, Meningkatkan kualitas mutu baca, tulis dan tafsir al-Qur'an, Mengadakan seleksi/STQ, Mengadakan Training Center (TC). Temuan ini memperlihatkan bahwa LPTQ berkontribusi secara signifikan terhadap peningkatan kualitas dan prestasi qari dan qariah dalam ajang MTQ. Meskipun demikian masih terdapat Hambatan/kendala LPTQ Kerinci dalam meningkatkan prestasi Qari dan Qari'ah seperti Keterbatasan Dana dan Sumber Daya, Minimnya Pelatih yang Berkualifikasi, Kurangnya Sarana dan prasarana Pembinaan, Keterbatasan Waktu Pembinaan, Kurangnya Dukungan dari Pemerintah, Kurangnya Program Pembinaan Berjenjang. Rekomendasi dari penelitian ini mencakup peningkatan alokasi dana, penyediaan pelatih profesional, serta pengembangan program berkelanjutan untuk menjamin kualitas dan kesinambungan pembinaan LPTQ.

**Kata kunci:** LPTQ, MTQ, Prestasi, Qari/Qari'ah

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia, as a country with a Muslim-majority population, possesses a rich and diverse Islamic cultural heritage. One of the highly valued religious traditions in Indonesia is the art of Qur'an recitation, known as *tilawah*. This tradition has become an integral part

of society, where Qur'an recitation is not only a form of worship but also a means to deepen understanding and increase the love of Muslims for their holy book. In practice, Qur'an recitation requires mastery of *tajwid* (rules of pronunciation) and the art of reciting in a melodious tone, along with a deep comprehension of the meaning of each verse recited.

In order to preserve and develop the tradition of Qur'an recitation, various institutions in Indonesia play an active role, one of which is the Tilawatil Qur'an Development Institute (LPTQ). LPTQ was established with the primary goal of supporting and guiding the community, especially qari (male reciters) and qariah (female reciters), to enhance their skills and achievements in reciting the holy verses of the Qur'an. This institution is also responsible for organizing training, mentoring, and religious activities related to Qur'an recitation. One tangible expression of LPTQ's role is the organization of the Musabaqah Tilawatil Qur'an (MTQ), a Qur'an recitation competition involving participants from various regions across Indonesia, aimed at identifying and fostering the best talents in Qur'an recitation.

The Tilawatil Qur'an Development Institute, abbreviated as LPTQ, plays a significant role in encouraging younger generations to read, understand, internalize, and practice the teachings of the Qur'an (Abdul Rahman, 2021: 84). With the presence of LPTQ institutions from the regional to the national level (Zaki, 2021), partnerships are established with government institutions, private organizations, and educational institutions, ranging from elementary schools to universities.

The presence of LPTQ as an institution for studying and facilitating religious organizations in improving the ability to read, write, understand, and practice the Qur'an has become highly evident. Ideally, with LPTQ as an institution aimed at supporting qari and qariah in gaining knowledge, exploring, and developing their potential related to the Qur'an, it should be able to fulfill its role to the fullest (Muhammad Zaki, 2021: 2).

LPTQ also functions to organize MTQ (Musabaqah Tilawatil Qur'an) and STQ (Selection Tilawatil Qur'an) competitions at the sub-district, district, provincial, and national levels. Through these MTQ events, the achievements of the participants become evident. These MTQ activities are held annually across various categories (Suryati, 2018: 69).

As an institution responsible for the training, education, and essential support of qari and qariah in Kerinci Regency, Kerinci should ideally be able to showcase and achieve commendable results, given the region's considerable talent and potential, which is highly

regarded by other districts. However, in recent years, Kerinci Regency has consistently ranked last in the achievements of qari and qariah at the Jambi Province MTQ. This situation has become a serious concern, prompting LPTQ Kerinci Regency to engage in introspection and take necessary improvement measures to enhance the performance of its qari and qariah. The performance data of LPTQ Kerinci Regency over recent years is shown in Table 1 below :

**Table 1: Achievements of LPTQ Kerinci Regency**

No	Prestasi	Tahun	Ket
1	MTQ Jambi Province, 49th place (Muara Bungo)	2019	Rank X
2	MTQ Jambi Province, 50th place (Kuala Tungkal)	2021	Rank XI
3	MTQ Jambi Province, 51th place (Sungai Penuh)	2022	Rank XI
4	MTQ Jambi Province, 52th place (Sarolangun)	2023	Rank X

Source: *Decree of the MTQ Judging Panel*

The achievement data of the MTQ in Kerinci Regency shows a consistent decline in rankings. This raises fundamental questions about the causes and necessary solutions. One assumption that arises is the ineffectiveness of education and training for qari and qariah in identifying talent at the local level. This may be due to the lack of effective platforms or learning spaces, which in turn diminishes the interest and motivation of the younger generation to study, particularly in the field of Qur'anic recitation.

Therefore, the role of LPTQ Kerinci Regency becomes crucial in creating qari and qariah who excel not only at the provincial level but also at the national and international levels. This effort is expected to bring recognition to both the district and the province, as well as to make Indonesia proud on the international stage. Additionally, it is important to identify and mentor the younger generation from an early age so that they can become competent successors to the experienced qari and qariah.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

The author uses a qualitative research method with a case study approach. In this research, the author analyzes the role of LPTQ in improving the achievements of qari and qariah, as well as the challenges faced in enhancing their performance. The data collection techniques used in this study are observation, interviews, and documentation (Arikunto, 2006). Through the observations made and in-depth interviews conducted, it is hoped that

the necessary data can be obtained, allowing for analysis using data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing (Mathew B. Miles, 1984: 21-23).

### **3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Based on the research findings, the role of LPTQ Kerinci Regency in improving the achievements of *qari* and *qariah* is by making various efforts and initiatives to develop the potential, skills, and quality of the participants, including:

#### **Organizing the Musabaqah Tilawatil Qur'an (MTQ)**

The Musabaqah Tilawatil Qur'an (MTQ) is a type of competition related to the Qur'an, featuring various categories such as Tilawatil Qur'an, Qur'anic memorization (Tahfidzul Qur'an), Qur'anic interpretation (Syarhil Qur'an), Qur'anic comprehension (Fahmil Qur'an), Qur'anic calligraphy (Khattil Qur'an), Qur'anic essays, and many other branches. Based on interviews, it was found that the organization of the MTQ is an essential role that LPTQ must carry out in efforts to develop and improve the achievements of *qari* and *qariah*. LPTQ's role in organizing the MTQ includes various aspects such as planning, coordination, and evaluation to ensure the event runs smoothly and successfully.

The Musabaqah Tilawatil Qur'an (MTQ) serves as a platform not only to cultivate a Qur'anic culture in society but also to encourage the active participation of *qari* and *qariah* in competitions from the local to international levels. Through MTQ, LPTQ provides participants with a platform to showcase their Qur'anic recitation skills, including vocal performance, interpretation, and mastery of tajwid rules. The competition-based learning applied in MTQ aligns with John Dewey's "Learning by Doing" theory, which asserts that direct experience in a competitive environment can significantly enhance skills (Dewey, 1938). Furthermore, B.F. Skinner's Reinforcement Theory suggests that competition with rewards can strengthen participants' motivation to continuously improve in Qur'anic recitation.

Specifically, in the Tilawatil Qur'an category, there are many regulations that must be followed during the competition. These include the duration of time and the number of musical pieces that must be performed by the participants during their appearance. If these requirements are not adhered to as determined by the organizing committee, it will result in an error or even a deduction in the scoring by the judging panel.

#### **Improving the quality of reading, writing, and interpretation (Tafsir) of the Qur'an**

Improving the quality of reading, writing, and interpretation (Tafsir) of the Qur'an means efforts or initiatives carried out in the process of learning to read, write, and understand the Qur'an. It also refers to the guidance provided to enhance the skills in reading, writing, and interpreting the Qur'an through various activities or efforts. One of the roles of LPTQ is to improve the quality of reading and interpretation or understanding of the Qur'an. To achieve this, continuous and regular guidance or training is necessary. In this guidance, it is not enough to rely solely on theory; there must also be practical experience, such as performing in front of an audience. According to the Chairman of the MUI (Indonesian Ulema Council) of Kerinci Regency, Buya Usman, who shared this during the 53rd MTQ Dialogue of Kerinci Regency through the TVRI Jambi YouTube channel at the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3CynEZ0eGo&t=450s> He explained that:

Improving the quality of reading, writing, and interpretation of the Qur'an should be carried out through continuous guidance and training. The Tilawatil Qur'an Development Institute (LPTQ) plays an important role in the training and mentoring of *qari* and *qariah*, who are Qur'an reciters with the ability to recite the Qur'an beautifully and in accordance with the rules. LPTQ is responsible for guiding and developing their talents, so they can read the Qur'an well, correctly, and melodiously. The training of *qari* and *qariah* by LPTQ is carried out in a structured and comprehensive manner, covering various aspects aimed at improving the quality of their recitation, understanding, and presentation when reading the Qur'an. Below are the forms of guidance carried out to develop the potential of *qari* and *qariah*:

a. Tilawah Technique Training

LPTQ provides specialized training to *qari* and *qariah* in tilawah techniques, including pronunciation, intonation, rhythm, and proper breathing. The aim of this training is to enable *qari* and *qariah* to recite the verses of the Qur'an with a melodious voice that captivates listeners. This training also focuses on understanding the rhythms (maqamat) of tilawah, such as Bayyati, Saba, Hijaz, and Nahawand, so that *qari* and *qariah* can perform at their best.

b. Tajwid and Makhraj Training

Mastering *tajwid* (rules of recitation) and *makhraj* (articulation points of letters) is essential for *qari* and *qariah*. LPTQ plays a key role in providing in-depth training in *tajwid* so that they can read the Qur'an correctly and in accordance with the rules. This training covers detailed aspects such as the length and shortness of recitations, nasal sounds, and the accurate pronunciation of letters according to the established guidelines.

c. Organization of Regular Classes and Intensive Programs

LPTQ organizes regular classes and intensive programs held periodically for *qari* and *qariah*. These classes are designed to provide structured, continuous training so that participants can continuously refine their skills. The intensive programs are typically held before competitions or MTQ, offering deeper guidance with a focus on mental preparation and performance techniques.

d. Mentoring from Experienced *Qari/Qariah*

To enhance the abilities of *qari* and *qariah*, LPTQ organizes a mentoring program by inviting experienced and accomplished *qari* and *qariah*. These mentors will provide direct guidance, offer feedback, and teach specialized techniques they have mastered. This approach aims to ensure that *qari* and *qariah* gain hands-on experience and learn from experts who have already proven their quality.

e. Mental Training and Performance Preparation

For *qari* and *qariah* who will participate in competitions such as the Musabaqah Tilawatil Qur'an (MTQ), LPTQ provides mental training to prepare them to perform with confidence. This training includes techniques for overcoming nervousness, emotional control, and strategies to captivate the judges. LPTQ also conducts simulations or rehearsals to help *qari* and *qariah* become accustomed to the competitive environment.

f. Regular Evaluation and Feedback

After each training session, LPTQ provides evaluation and feedback to *qari* and *qariah* regarding their performance. This feedback is crucial for participants to understand their strengths and weaknesses, as well as areas that need improvement. The evaluations are conducted regularly to ensure that each participant can continue to develop and meet the expected standards.

g. Competition Support and Advanced Training

In addition to basic training, LPTQ supports *qari* and *qariah* to participate in various local, national, and international competitions. LPTQ provides advanced training for those who excel, preparing them for higher levels of competition. This support includes additional practice, technique adjustments, and guidance from coaches.

The explanation above indicates that the guidance and training carried out by LPTQ, as mentioned by the Chairman of MUI, is an effort aimed at improving the achievements of qari and qariah in Kerinci Regency.

### **Holding a selection/STQ (Selection of Tilawatil Qur'an)**

Selection is an activity carried out to identify the best participants or competitors among those involved in a competition. In the case of the MTQ (Musabaqah Tilawatil Qur'an), a selection process may be conducted either after the event or even without holding the MTQ.

The Lembaga Pengembangan Tilawatil Qur'an (LPTQ) plays a crucial role in the selection process of qari and qariah who will represent their regions or institutions in various competitions, particularly the MTQ at local, national, and international levels. The goal of this selection is to find qari and qariah who possess the best qualities in reciting, memorizing, and understanding the Qur'an. The selection of qari and qariah must be carried out by all parties involved, in an objective manner, and with clearly defined criteria and stages. LPTQ establishes transparent and comprehensive selection criteria to ensure that only the best participants advance to higher levels. This process involves experienced judges and transparent evaluation. Weber's (1922) concept of objective selection emphasizes the importance of rules and standards in the assessment process. This is to avoid bias and conflicts of interest, while ensuring the quality of the participants is guaranteed

### **Organizing a Training Center (TC)**

A Training Center (TC), also known as a training facility or a place where training takes place, is established with the aim of preparing participants before they are sent to compete. Participants who pass the selection stage will undergo a training camp or Training Center (TC), which is held at the LPTQ Kerinci Regency's accommodations or dormitories, specifically prepared for those attending the TC. Albert Bandura (1986) emphasized that a person's belief in their ability to succeed is greatly influenced by the preparation and support they receive. The Training Center provides qari and qariah with greater confidence in facing the competition.

During the training or coaching process, various facilities needed by the participants are provided, including accommodations, meals, and others. In addition to meeting the participants' needs, they are also specifically trained in terms of quality, talent, and mental strength, ensuring they are more robust and well-prepared. This training is directly provided by coaches, both local and those brought in from outside the region.

Moreover, during the TC process, there must be interaction between the participants, the LPTQ administrators, and the coaches.

The purpose of this increased interaction is to help participants better understand and easily apply what has been taught. Kerinci Regency also collaborates with central coaches, specifically experienced and competent international qari and qariah from Indonesia, to provide material and motivation for the participants, as well as to improve their mental quality regarding Tilawatil Qur'an. Another purpose of organizing this Training Center (TC) is not only for the benefit of the participants but also to achieve the targets and goals of the program, particularly for the LPTQ of Kerinci Regency. The hope is that the implementation of the TC will bring about changes in terms of the quality, potential, achievements, and talents of the participants, as well as interest and passion for future generations. As such, the impact of the Training Center is significant in influencing preparation and how the participants, especially the qari and qariah, perform.

In addition to the importance of the Training Center for the participants, the close relationship between the participants and the coaches also greatly influences the potential of the qari and qariah. Through communication or closeness with the coaches, participants can easily schedule additional training sessions outside of the regular training time during the Training Center quarantine, either by visiting the coaches at their homes or going to the study halls where the coaches teach. These efforts ensure that the potential and preparation of the participants, particularly the qari and qariah, are not only focused on the period leading up to the MTQ but continue beyond it. The participants must keep training and developing their potential by studying more diligently, engaging in sufficient physical exercise, and maintaining proper nutrition and hydration to preserve their vocal health, especially for the qari and qariah who will represent the Kerinci Regency delegation in the MTQ or STQ at the national level.

In addition to the role played by LPTQ in improving the achievements of qari and qariah, there are also various obstacles faced by the Lembaga Pengembangan Tilawatil Qur'an (LPTQ) in enhancing the performance of qari and qariah in Kerinci Regency. Some of the main challenges include limited funding, a shortage of qualified coaches, insufficient training facilities and infrastructure, limited time, and a lack of support from the government.

- a. Limited Funding and Resources

One of the most significant obstacles is limited funding. Insufficient funds often result in suboptimal training and development programs, hindering access for qari and qariah to experienced coaches and necessary facilities. Barney (1991) states that the availability of adequate resources is a key factor in achieving organizational goals, in this case, improving the performance of qari and qariah.

Funding plays a vital role in the implementation of training and development programs for qari and qariah. Limited funds can lead to various challenges, ranging from a lack of quality training to inadequate facilities that support the development of the qari and qariah's skills. Without sufficient funding, LPTQ is often forced to limit or reduce the quality of training programs, preventing participants from fully developing their skills. This issue is further compounded by the need for highly qualified coaches and modern training equipment, which require additional funding.

b. The Lack of Qualified Coaches

The lack of qualified coaches is a major challenge, especially for qari and qariah at advanced levels. Competent coaches can help participants understand Quran recitation techniques more deeply, including tajwid. Bandura (1986) highlighted that coaches play a crucial role in learning through observation and imitation, so the scarcity of qualified coaches can limit participants' ability to acquire the desired skills.

c. The Lack of Training Facilities and Infrastructure

Training qari and qariah requires supporting facilities such as practice rooms, audio equipment, and other necessary tools. Without these facilities, the training process becomes less effective. According to Bronfenbrenner's (1979) Theory of Learning Environment, a supportive physical environment is an essential part of individual development and learning. Therefore, the lack of these facilities can hinder the progress of qari and qariah.

d. Limited Training Time

Limited time often causes training to be rushed, especially as the competition approaches. Kolb's (1984) Theory of Experiential Learning explains the importance of consistent and structured training to develop individual skills. With limited time, qari and qariah may not have enough opportunity to deeply develop their recitation skills.

e. Lack of Support from the Government

Government support in the form of funding, facilities, and adequate policies is crucial in the training process for qari and qariah. House's (1981) Social Support Theory states that external support, both financially and through policy, can motivate individuals or groups to develop better. The lack of government attention can hinder the potential of qari and qariah.

f. The Lack of Tiered Training Programs

Without tiered training programs, LPTQ often struggles to provide training that matches the skill level of qari and qariah. Tiered programs allow for systematic training that aligns with the participants' ability levels, making it more effective. According to the Stages of Learning Theory by Dreyfus and Dreyfus (1980), tiered training helps individuals progress gradually from beginner to expert stages.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the above research, it can be concluded that the role of LPTQ Kerinci Regency in improving the performance of qari and qariah is carried out through various efforts and initiatives to develop the potential, ability, and quality of the participants. These include: organizing the Musabaqah Tilawatil Qur'an, improving the quality of reading, writing, and interpreting the Qur'an, conducting selections/STQ, and organizing a Training Center (TC).

Several obstacles frequently faced by LPTQ in improving the achievements of qari and qariah include limited funding and resources, a shortage of qualified coaches, insufficient training facilities and infrastructure, limited training time, lack of support from the government, and the absence of tiered training programs.

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