

## Christian Ethics as an Effort to Address Moral Crisis in Juvenile Delinquency

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### ABSTRACT

This study examines the role of Christian ethics as a strategic framework to address moral crises associated with juvenile delinquency. Juvenile delinquency is a complex social phenomenon influenced by intrinsic and extrinsic factors, including family dynamics, peer relationships, educational environments, digital media exposure, and spiritual formation. The study employs a qualitative descriptive approach, integrating data from interviews, observations, and document analysis, validated through triangulation techniques. Findings indicate that Christian ethics, grounded in biblical principles such as love, forgiveness, responsibility, and self-discipline, provides a holistic moral framework that guides adolescents toward ethical decision-making and constructive behavior. The transformative work of the Holy Spirit is highlighted as a central mechanism for internal moral renewal, fostering self-control and spiritual discernment that counteract tendencies toward delinquent behavior.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Delinquent behavior among children and adolescents has emerged as a pressing social issue across various regions in Indonesia. The moral decline among teenagers and students represents a significant challenge in the digital era (Neri & Koehuan, 2024). This behavior is manifested in rising cases of violence, theft, substance abuse, free sexual behavior, and other deviations. The consequences of delinquent behavior are not limited to individuals but also disrupt social harmony and hinder the holistic development of children and adolescents (Usman, 2019). The high rates of delinquency indicate failures in character formation based on ethical and spiritual values. Therefore, addressing this issue requires the study and application of Christian ethics, focusing on reconstructing life attitudes grounded in love, moral discipline, and responsibility (Anggita, 2023). An educational approach combined with bibliocounseling, integrating Christian values with the involvement of schools, churches, and families, offers an effective pathway for moral reconstruction (Azkiyah, 2017).

Current phenomena show that adolescents face significant identity crises, particularly in the digital era, largely due to the pervasive influence of social media, readily available content contradicting faith principles, and peer pressure (Neri & Koehuan, 2024). Moreover, the escalation of delinquent behaviors such as violence and social norm violations often occurs in family contexts marked by instability or insufficient parental involvement (Fitria, 2024). There is a noticeable gap between moral and Christian ethical values and their implementation by adolescents in real-life, especially in modern digital and social spaces (Yohana & Haryanto, 2024). This indicates that although Christian religious education exists, its practical impact remains suboptimal. Therefore, the intervention of Christian ethics is crucial to reconstructing the moral lives of children and adolescents (Tina Napitupulu, 2022). Implementing Christian ethics through moral contemplation, character development, and regular faith practices establishes a strong foundation for preventing delinquent behavior.

Previous research has emphasized the relevance of moral and ethical frameworks as theoretical foundations. Moral reasoning theory suggests that individuals' capacity to distinguish right from wrong, based on established moral norms and principles, significantly influences their moral decision-making (Garvin, 2019). Empirical evidence indicates that higher levels of moral reasoning correlate with decreased delinquency tendencies (Usman, 2019). Religious value education reinforces internal moral strength, wherein Christian education in families, schools, and churches contributes to reducing delinquent behavior (Anggita, 2023). Additionally, emotional intelligence demonstrates that emotions such as shame and guilt function as moral inhibitors of deviant behavior and serve as important predictors of juvenile delinquency (Garvin, 2019). Social control theory highlights the role of positive parent-child relationships in preventing delinquency (Nourmarifa, 2019). Within this context, Christian ethics, cultivated through moral contemplation, character formation, and consistent faith-based practices, provides an effective foundation for preventing delinquent behavior among children and adolescents.

However, existing studies still face limitations. Although the importance of instilling Christian ethical values has been recognized, practical and measurable intervention strategies to reduce delinquency remain underdeveloped (Tina Napitupulu, 2022). Previous research by Weniati and Lestari (2024) highlighted moral decline among Christian children and adolescents in the digital era, emphasizing the challenges posed by technological advancement but without providing an applicable and measurable intervention framework based on Christian ethics. Therefore, this study offers an innovative perspective by proposing a practical, integrated, and contextual Christian ethics intervention model as a strategic approach to addressing moral crises and delinquency among Christian children and adolescents.

The purpose of this study is to investigate the role of Christian ethics as a fundamental element in the moral and character development of children and adolescents showing delinquent behavior tendencies. According to Lende (2025), the values of love, honesty, and responsibility in Christian ethics form the primary foundation for building resilient character amidst contemporary social challenges. In line with this, Baok, Ito, Saingo, and Leobisa (2025) demonstrated that internalization of ethical values can effectively suppress deviant behavior, especially in confronting the influences of free social interactions in a holistic and integrative manner. Therefore, this study aims to design a contextual and practical Christian ethics intervention model to address moral crises and delinquency among children and adolescents. Overall, this research seeks to formulate a comprehensive and practical framework for implementing Christian ethics to nurture moral character and limit delinquent behavior in adolescents.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The moral decline among teenagers and students represents a significant challenge in the digital era (Neri & Koehuan, 2024). Current phenomena show that adolescents face significant identity crises, particularly in the digital era, largely due to the pervasive influence of social media, readily available content contradicting faith principles, and peer pressure (Neri & Koehuan, 2024).

Moral reasoning theory suggests that individuals' capacity to distinguish right from wrong, based on established moral norms and principles, significantly influences their moral decision-making (Garvin, 2019). Empirical evidence indicates that higher levels of moral reasoning correlate with decreased delinquency tendencies (Usman, 2019). Religious value education reinforces internal moral strength, wherein Christian education in families, schools, and churches contributes to reducing delinquent behavior (Anggita, 2023).

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study employed a descriptive qualitative methodology to comprehensively understand the significance of Christian ethics in addressing moral crises among children and adolescents. As articulated by Moleong (2017), qualitative research emphasizes a holistic understanding of phenomena through verbal articulation of experiences in natural contexts. Data were collected using interviews, observations, and document analysis, and subsequently validated through triangulation techniques as recommended by Sugiyono (2019). The data analysis process followed the interactive model proposed by Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña (2014), which encompasses data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. This methodological approach was chosen due to its capacity to explore in depth and to apply the implications of Christian ethics within the lived experiences of children and adolescents, allowing for rich contextual insights and practical recommendations for moral development interventions.

## **RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### ***The Essence of Christian Ethics***

Christian ethics is a branch of theology that focuses on moral principles derived from the teachings of the Bible and the will of God, serving as a guide for authentic and virtuous human behavior. In the context of addressing juvenile delinquency, the principles of Christian ethics emphasize the importance of love, forgiveness, discipline, and responsibility as foundational values that guide individuals to live according to God's will and avoid behaviors that contradict Christian norms (Proverbs 22:6; John 8:11). This ethical framework goes beyond mere social conventions, encompassing the relational dynamics between humanity and the divine, manifested through obedience to the Scriptures and the embodiment of Christ's love. For example, research by Bailey (2021) demonstrates that participation in religious activities, such as community service and youth groups, can strengthen moral values and ethical behavior in adolescents.

In efforts to reduce delinquency among children and adolescents, the integration of Christian values develops a comprehensive approach that prioritizes character education, moral resilience, and communal engagement. This approach involves families as role models conveying life principles in accordance with divine revelation, while the church plays a critical role through moral instruction and spiritual guidance. A Christ-centered approach emphasizes restoration and constructive growth, creating opportunities for young people to engage in repentance and develop into responsible individuals characterized by integrity. A study by Brown and Lee (2018) highlights that character formation through religious education can reduce deviant behavior in adolescents by providing a clear moral framework.

Thus, Christian ethics occupies a critical position as a foundation for lasting moral transformation and serves as an effective instrument in addressing moral challenges associated with juvenile delinquency. Faith-based approaches not only focus on preventing negative behavior but also on building strong character through the internalization of Christian values. Additionally, research by Pajević (2007) indicates that adolescents with strong religious moral beliefs exhibit better impulse control, improved mental health stability, and greater capacity to manage neurotic conflicts typical of adolescence. Consequently, Christian ethics plays a vital role in establishing a solid moral foundation for the younger generation, which in turn can reduce delinquency rates and enhance the quality of their social lives.

### *Theological Foundations of Christian Ethics*

Christian ethics is firmly rooted in the biblical concept that humans are created in the image and likeness of God (*Imago Dei*), which bestows intrinsic dignity and worth to every individual (Genesis 1:26–27). This foundational view asserts that each person possesses an inherent value that must be respected, irrespective of social or cultural circumstances. However, sin has distorted the relationship between humans and God, as well as interpersonal relationships among people (Romans 3:23). Christian ethics emphasizes that reconciliation through Christ restores not only spiritual identity but also moral integrity, offering a path for adolescents to reorient their lives in accordance with divine will (2 Corinthians 5:17). Simaremare (2019) explains that the concept of “new creation” in 2 Corinthians 5:17 reflects a profound spiritual transformation, which facilitates restoration of relationships with both God and fellow humans. Thus, moral interventions for adolescents should focus on holistic restoration, addressing both relational and behavioral dimensions rather than simply correcting external actions (Simaremare, 2019).

Love occupies a central and indispensable role in the moral framework of Christian ethics, representing the essence of all divine commandments. According to Matthew 22:37–39, Jesus taught that the greatest commandment is to love God and to love one’s neighbor as oneself. *Agapē* love, in this sense, is not merely an emotional response but a deliberate, intentional commitment to prioritize the welfare of others. Marbun (2019) emphasizes that God’s unconditional love, which freely accepts humans despite their sinful and rebellious state, forms the ethical foundation for moral action in everyday life. Adolescents internalizing such principles are better equipped to make ethical decisions and demonstrate empathy, justice, and integrity in their social interactions. Love, therefore, is not only a theological ideal but also a practical standard guiding behavior and character formation. In this way, ethical education grounded in *agapē* love can counteract tendencies toward moral deviance and delinquency.

Christian ethics also stresses the necessity of reconciliation and moral restoration as critical elements of adolescent development. Adolescents face complex social pressures, technological influences, and peer dynamics that often challenge ethical decision-making. By fostering reconciliation through Christ, Christian ethics provides a framework for restoring moral balance and promoting accountability for one's actions (2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 12:2). Interventions rooted in this perspective aim to rebuild adolescents' capacity for relational empathy, personal responsibility, and social harmony. According to Andrian (2024), education that integrates Christian ethical principles must actively cultivate moral reasoning, spiritual awareness, and identity formation in young people. Through consistent guidance, adolescents learn to align their behaviors with moral truths that are enduring and contextually relevant. This approach addresses not only immediate ethical concerns but also long-term character development.

The family, as the primary locus of moral and spiritual formation, plays a crucial role in reinforcing Christian ethical principles. Parents serve as role models whose actions and attitudes communicate moral expectations and cultivate internalized values in adolescents (Purba, 2021). Christian ethics emphasizes that the moral authority of the family is complemented, not replaced, by schools and churches. When families actively demonstrate love, discipline, and accountability, adolescents are better prepared to navigate social pressures and resist delinquent behavior. Collaborative efforts between parents, educators, and spiritual mentors create a consistent moral environment that strengthens ethical development. The integration of ethical teachings into daily family life ensures that adolescents experience moral principles as lived realities rather than abstract concepts (Manik, 2023). In this way, the family functions as both a moral compass and a stabilizing influence during adolescence.

Schools and educational institutions provide a structured environment where Christian ethics can be formally taught and reinforced. Incorporating values such as compassion, responsibility, and self-discipline into both curriculum and extracurricular activities allows adolescents to practice ethical behavior in varied contexts (Saruaha, 2025). Experiential learning, such as case studies, social service initiatives, and role-playing exercises, promotes the internalization of moral principles and enhances decision-making skills. Moreover, teachers trained in contemporary pedagogical strategies can address the unique moral challenges posed by the digital era, including exposure to social media and peer pressure. Schools, therefore, act as an essential bridge between familial guidance and community or church-based interventions, offering a safe and supportive setting for moral experimentation and growth. When ethical principles are consistently modeled and reinforced, adolescents develop a coherent moral framework that guides their behavior both within and outside the school environment. This integrated educational approach strengthens resilience against delinquent tendencies.

Finally, churches and faith-based organizations serve as vital institutions for moral and spiritual mentoring. Through small group activities, spiritual programs, and guided service projects, adolescents gain opportunities to engage actively with Christian teachings in a supportive community (Andrian, 2024). Clergy and mentors provide tailored guidance that addresses contemporary ethical challenges, including those related to digital exposure and peer influence. Christian ethics emphasizes that such engagement nurtures the moral and spiritual formation of adolescents, enabling them to cultivate virtues like patience, humility, and integrity. By promoting continuous reflection, mentorship, and practical application of ethical principles, churches contribute to a holistic moral ecosystem for youth development. This triadic collaboration of family, school, and church ensures that Christian ethics is both taught and lived, increasing its effectiveness in shaping responsible and morally grounded adolescents. Ultimately, this multi-layered approach provides a sustainable pathway for reducing delinquency and fostering ethical maturity.

### *Moral Renewal through the Holy Spirit*

Christian ethics emphasizes that true moral renewal occurs through the work of the Holy Spirit in an individual's life (Harrison, 1996). The Apostle Paul, in Romans 12:2, instructs believers not to conform to the patterns of this world but to be transformed by the renewing of their minds (metamorphousthe), indicating a continuous and progressive transformation (Kudadjie, 2025). This process allows individuals to discern God's will, which is good, pleasing, and perfect, shaping both character and conduct (Vledder, 1991). Moral transformation through the Spirit is crucial for adolescents, who face multiple external pressures, including peer influence and social media (Harrison, 1996). The Holy Spirit empowers them to act according to Christian principles rather than merely following social trends (Kudadjie, 2025). This renewal impacts both their internal disposition and external behavior, cultivating self-regulation and ethical decision-making (Vledder, 1991). In this way, spiritual renewal provides a foundation for adolescents to resist behaviors that lead to delinquency.

The role of the Holy Spirit in moral development is further highlighted through the fruit of the Spirit, particularly self-control, as described in Galatians 5:22-23 (Harrison, 1996). Self-control functions as a key mechanism for regulating behavior and avoiding harmful actions (Kudadjie, 2025). For adolescents, who are particularly vulnerable to temptation and peer pressure, self-control fosters resilience against delinquent behaviors (Vledder, 1991). Studies suggest that adolescents who internalize spiritual values demonstrate higher levels of ethical conduct and decision-making (Harrison, 1996). By cultivating self-control, the Spirit guides youth toward behaviors aligned with Christian ethics (Kudadjie, 2025). The development of self-control also reflects a maturing moral conscience influenced by divine guidance (Vledder, 1991). Thus, adolescents are better equipped to navigate moral dilemmas and uphold integrity.

Furthermore, the Holy Spirit's transformative work extends to the broader community context (Harrison, 1996). As individuals undergo moral renewal, their actions influence peers and create ethical norms within their social environment (Vledder, 1991). Churches serve as key institutions to facilitate this process, providing structured spiritual programs, mentorship, and community support (Kudadjie, 2025). Adolescents benefit from environments that reinforce positive moral behaviors and reduce exposure to harmful influences (Harrison, 1996). Participation in small groups, youth ministries, and service initiatives cultivates a sense of responsibility and accountability (Vledder, 1991). Community engagement helps internalize Christian ethics, allowing adolescents to embody principles such as love, forgiveness, and honesty (Kudadjie, 2025). Therefore, moral renewal through the Spirit is both personal and communal.

Moral transformation also requires consistent engagement with Scripture and prayer as avenues for spiritual growth (Harrison, 1996). Scripture provides guidance and benchmarks for ethical living, while prayer enables communication with God and openness to the Spirit's influence (Vledder, 1991). Adolescents who regularly study the Bible and participate in devotional practices are more likely to internalize moral values (Kudadjie, 2025). These disciplines reinforce character development, allowing the Holy Spirit to cultivate virtues such as patience, self-control, and compassion (Harrison, 1996). Adolescents learn to apply biblical principles in practical situations, creating alignment between belief and action (Vledder, 1991). Regular spiritual discipline promotes resilience against moral challenges prevalent in contemporary society (Kudadjie, 2025). Hence, Scripture and prayer are essential mechanisms for spiritual and moral renewal.

In conclusion, moral renewal through the Holy Spirit is an ongoing process that encompasses personal transformation, community engagement, and spiritual discipline (Harrison, 1996). Adolescents at a formative stage benefit most from guidance that integrates all three aspects, enabling ethical decision-making and responsible behavior (Kudadjie, 2025). Through the Spirit's empowerment, young individuals gain self-control, discernment, and moral fortitude (Vledder, 1991). Churches, families, and schools play complementary roles in fostering ethical growth through mentoring, teaching, and community activities (Harrison, 1996). Holistic interventions that incorporate Christian ethics provide adolescents with tools to resist delinquent behavior and build integrity (Kudadjie, 2025). By experiencing continuous moral renewal, youth develop a framework for navigating both digital and social challenges responsibly (Vledder, 1991). Therefore, the Holy Spirit's work is central to cultivating a morally resilient and ethically aware generation.

### *Factors Contributing to Delinquency*

Juvenile delinquency among children and adolescents is a multifaceted phenomenon influenced by a combination of social, cultural, technological, and spiritual factors. The rapid development of digital technologies exposes youth to instant lifestyles, easy access to information, and a constant flow of media content, which can weaken moral values and reduce perseverance and self-discipline (Manik, 2023). Adolescents may become desensitized to consequences and more susceptible to impulsive behavior due to excessive exposure to social media, violent content, and instant gratification trends (Saruaha, 2025). Consequently, the digital era presents unique moral challenges that require proactive guidance from parents, educators, and faith-based institutions to counterbalance potential negative influences. Research indicates that when adolescents lack frameworks for critical thinking and ethical discernment, they are more prone to engage in risky or delinquent behaviors (Intarti, 2020). Therefore, addressing the impact of digitalization is a crucial starting point in the prevention of delinquency. Integrating Christian ethics as part of digital literacy and moral education can equip adolescents with the tools to navigate these challenges responsibly (Manik, 2023).

The family serves as the primary context for moral education and spiritual formation, shaping children's early understanding of right and wrong (Purba, 2021). Parents who model ethical behavior, provide spiritual guidance, and foster open communication create an environment that reinforces moral development (Manik, 2023). Conversely, families that fail to provide consistent moral direction, neglect spiritual formation, or exhibit dysfunctional dynamics contribute to an increased risk of delinquent behavior among adolescents (Purba, 2021). Studies have demonstrated that strong parental involvement, characterized by guidance, supervision, and moral instruction, correlates with lower levels of juvenile delinquency (Intarti, 2020). Furthermore, ethical modeling within the family reinforces concepts such as responsibility, empathy, and integrity, which serve as protective factors against delinquent tendencies. When adolescents internalize these values, they are better prepared to resist negative peer pressure and make morally sound decisions (Manik, 2023). Therefore, strengthening the family as a moral and spiritual center is essential in addressing the root causes of delinquency.

Schools play a pivotal role as formal educational institutions, providing structured opportunities to integrate Christian ethical values into the curriculum and extracurricular activities (Saruaha, 2025). Effective school-based interventions encourage character development, promote moral reasoning, and reinforce lessons learned at home (Manik, 2023). Educational programs that incorporate interactive methodologies, such as case discussions, role-playing, and service projects, can facilitate the internalization of ethical principles among students (Saruaha, 2025). Moreover, teacher training on adolescent psychology and contemporary moral pedagogy ensures that educators can provide meaningful guidance in a contextually relevant manner (Purba, 2021). Schools that actively collaborate with families and faith communities create an integrated support system that fosters ethical decision-making and reduces the likelihood of delinquent behavior (Intarti, 2020). This holistic approach ensures that moral

education is not limited to theory but is consistently applied in daily interactions and school culture.

Peer relationships also significantly influence adolescent morality, shaping both positive and negative behaviors (Intarti, 2020). Adolescents are highly susceptible to peer pressure, and associations with peers who engage in delinquent behaviors increase the likelihood of similar conduct. Conversely, affiliation with morally responsible peers can reinforce ethical behavior and promote adherence to social norms (Manik, 2023). Studies suggest that mentorship programs and peer-led initiatives within schools and youth organizations can cultivate positive peer influence and reduce deviant behavior (Saruaha, 2025). Encouraging adolescents to participate in group activities that foster cooperation, empathy, and accountability strengthens moral resilience and reduces susceptibility to negative social pressures. Effective interventions often combine peer guidance with parental and educational support to provide a balanced social environment that nurtures ethical development (Purba, 2021). Therefore, understanding and strategically guiding peer influence is critical in the holistic prevention of juvenile delinquency.

Spiritual engagement also serves as a protective factor against delinquency, providing adolescents with moral frameworks and purpose-driven behavior (Manik, 2023). Christian ethical principles, internalized through family, school, and church involvement, guide adolescents in making decisions aligned with values such as honesty, responsibility, and compassion (Purba, 2021). Research has shown that adolescents who participate in religious or spiritual activities demonstrate higher levels of self-regulation, prosocial behavior, and resilience against moral transgressions (Intarti, 2020). Spiritual guidance reinforces the internalization of moral norms, which strengthens character development and ethical reasoning in complex social situations (Saruaha, 2025). The combination of spiritual formation and practical ethical education fosters a well-rounded moral compass that adolescents can apply across digital, social, and cultural contexts. Consequently, spiritual engagement should be considered an integral component of delinquency prevention strategies.

In conclusion, juvenile delinquency arises from an interplay of digital exposure, family dynamics, school interventions, peer influence, and spiritual formation (Manik, 2023; Purba, 2021; Saruaha, 2025; Intarti, 2020). Addressing delinquency effectively requires a comprehensive, holistic approach that integrates moral guidance and ethical education across all spheres of adolescent life. Collaborative efforts between families, schools, and religious institutions, grounded in Christian ethics, can provide adolescents with consistent moral frameworks and positive role models. By promoting ethical awareness, self-regulation, and spiritual engagement, these interventions reduce the risk of delinquency while fostering resilience and character development. Ultimately, such integrated strategies aim to produce morally responsible, spiritually grounded, and socially competent youth capable of navigating contemporary challenges with integrity.

*Practical Recommendations and Design of a Christian Ethical Intervention Model*

**Table 1. Integrated Intervention Model**

Stage	Key Activities	Implementers
Early Education	Training parents and teachers on Christian ethics and digital-era challenges	Schools, Churches, Social Institutions
Character Formation	Deepening values of love and responsibility through active learning and spiritual guidance	Schools, Churches, Families
Ongoing Mentoring	Youth mentoring groups to strengthen faith and self-control	Churches, Families, Schools
Evaluation & Reflection	Behavioral monitoring and reflective dialogue with all stakeholders	All stakeholders

To restore the moral foundation of children and adolescents exhibiting disruptive behavior or tendencies toward delinquency, a holistic and integrated intervention model grounded in Christian ethics is essential. The family is the primary pillar of moral education, and parents play a vital role in shaping values and behaviors. Parental training programs that emphasize Christian ethical principles and contextual mentoring strategies can empower parents to provide consistent guidance (Purba, 2021). Parents should actively model virtues such as love, honesty, and responsibility, creating an environment conducive to open dialogue and moral formation. Studies have shown that parental involvement in moral education directly correlates with reduced delinquency among adolescents (Manik, 2023). Therefore, strengthening families through intentional training and support structures is a crucial first step in addressing youth moral crises.

Schools also serve as strategic institutions for implementing Christian ethical education. Integrating values such as compassion, responsibility, and integrity into curricula and extracurricular activities provides adolescents with practical opportunities to internalize these principles (Saruaha, 2025). Interactive approaches, including case studies, role-playing, and community service projects, enhance moral reasoning and allow students to experience ethical decision-making in real-world contexts. Furthermore, educators should receive professional development in adolescent psychology and contemporary moral pedagogy to guide students effectively (Andrian, 2024). By embedding Christian ethical principles in daily educational practice, schools become instrumental in shaping responsible, morally grounded behavior in youth.

Churches play a complementary role by providing spiritual mentoring and faith-based guidance that reinforces family and school efforts. Clergy and church educators can lead small-group activities, organize social service initiatives, and design age-appropriate spiritual programs that resonate with contemporary youth challenges, including digital exposure and peer pressure (Manik, 2023). Church-based mentoring emphasizes not only doctrinal knowledge but also practical moral application, enabling adolescents to develop virtues such as self-control, empathy, and resilience. Such interventions help youth internalize Christian ethical principles and apply them in everyday life, mitigating tendencies toward delinquent behavior (Purba, 2021). The triad of family, school, and church thus provides a cohesive moral ecosystem that nurtures character development.

The proposed integrated intervention model consists of four stages: early education, character formation, ongoing mentoring, and evaluation/reflection. During the early education stage, parents and teachers receive training on Christian ethics and the challenges posed by digital culture, equipping them to guide youth effectively. The character formation stage focuses on deepening values of love, responsibility, and integrity through active learning and spiritual guidance within schools, churches, and families. Ongoing mentoring involves youth support groups aimed at strengthening faith, self-discipline, and moral resilience, ensuring that guidance is continuous rather than episodic.

Evaluation and reflection are essential to monitor behavioral progress and assess the effectiveness of the intervention. This stage involves systematic observation, reflective dialogue with adolescents, and feedback among all stakeholders, including families, schools, and churches (Saruaha, 2025). Continuous evaluation ensures that interventions remain contextually relevant and responsive to emerging moral challenges, particularly in digital and social environments. By embedding reflection into the model, adolescents not only receive guidance but also learn to self-assess, internalize ethical principles, and adjust their behavior proactively.

Overall, implementing this integrated Christian ethical intervention model is expected to reduce delinquent behavior and foster a generation of adolescents characterized by high moral standards, integrity, and resilience. By coordinating the efforts of families, schools, and churches, this model provides a comprehensive approach to moral education that addresses both internal and external factors influencing youth behavior (Andrian, 2024; Manik, 2023; Purba, 2021; Saruaha, 2025). Such a holistic framework equips adolescents with the skills, values, and spiritual foundation necessary to navigate complex societal challenges responsibly and ethically.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of this study on Christian ethics as a mechanism for addressing the moral crisis related to juvenile delinquency indicate that deviant behavior among children and adolescents represents a diverse and increasingly concerning social problem, particularly in the digital context, which presents numerous moral dilemmas. The decline in character and ethical standards among adolescents is often caused by the convergence of intrinsic factors, including insufficient engagement with the principles of Christian ethics, and extrinsic influences such as social media, peer dynamics, and family instability.

Christian ethics plays a crucial role as the foundation for the moral development and character formation of children and adolescents, through the embodiment of principles such as love, forgiveness, discipline, and responsibility, all grounded in biblical teachings. True moral renewal depends on the transformative influence of the Holy Spirit in an individual's life, culminating in the metamorphosis of the heart and the cultivation of self-regulation, which empowers individuals to resist deviant behavior.

Effective intervention strategies must adopt a holistic and integrative approach, incorporating the family as a fundamental component of moral education, educational institutions as arenas for character development using innovative methodologies, and religious organizations that provide spiritual counsel alongside contextually relevant guidance, particularly in response to the challenges presented by the digital era. This intervention framework prioritizes the continuous instillation of values of love and responsibility through the active engagement of all stakeholders.

## ADVANCED RESEARCH

Through the implementation of a comprehensive Christian ethics intervention model, deviant behavior is expected to be reduced, fostering a generation characterized by high moral standards, resilience, and integrity, equipped to face various social and digital challenges with responsible and faith-oriented attitudes.

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