Systematic Literature Review: Religious Moderation in Rejecting Fanaticism in Indonesia

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Abstract: This study aims to examine the application of religious moderation in overcoming religious fanaticism in Indonesia, a country with high religious and cultural diversity. The main objective of this study is to understand how religious moderation can reduce the potential for social conflict caused by religious fanaticism. Using a systematic literature review (SLR) methodology, the database used to search for literature is data contained in Google Scholar and the Covidence Application, 6 relevant studies were analyzed using the PICOC-PRISMA criteria. The results of the study indicate that religious moderation can be implemented through inclusive religious education, the role of mass media in disseminating values of tolerance, and government policies that support harmony between religious communities. In addition, factors that influence the emergence of religious fanaticism include narrow understanding of religion, social injustice, and the spread of radical ideology through social media. This study contributes to strengthening multiculturalism and harmony between religious communities in Indonesia.

Keywords: Fanaticism; Indonesia; Moderation; Multiculturalism; Religion

1. Background

Indonesia, as a country with religious and cultural diversity, is a prime example of the concept of multiculturalism. However, this diversity often presents challenges in maintaining social harmony, particularly with religious fanaticism, which can lead to potential conflict between groups. In this context, religious moderation has emerged as a crucial approach to combating fanaticism and strengthening interfaith harmony in Indonesia. Religious moderation is expected to be a tool for fostering tolerance and respect for diversity, while simultaneously combating the growing extremism and radicalization within society (Husni, 2020). This approach is also relevant in addressing potential friction that can arise from narrow and dogmatic interpretations of religion (Mustafa, 2021).

In its application, religious moderation seeks to integrate religious values with the principles of a pluralistic communal life. This concept of moderation focuses not only on a more respectful and balanced understanding of religion but also takes into account the social, political, and cultural aspects developing in society. Indonesia, with over 200 million Muslims and various other religious groups, faces significant challenges in balancing religious freedom with respect for diversity. Therefore, research on religious moderation is crucial to understanding how this approach can be applied to combat fanaticism and strengthen multiculturalism in society (Fadhli, 2020).

The main questions this research seeks to answer are: first, how can the concept of religious moderation be applied in Indonesia's multicultural society? Second, what factors influence the emergence of religious fanaticism in Indonesia? Third, how can religious moderation reduce the impact of fanaticism on Indonesian social life?

2. Research Method

This study is a qualitative study using a systematic literature review (SLR) approach. SLR is a review of existing similar studies using rigorous and structured methods to answer the research questions (Newman & Gough, 2020). Data collection was carried out using the Publish or Perish application in the Google Scholar database. Data searches used the keywords Religion, Moderation, Fanaticism, Multiculturalism, Indonesia. Data searches were limited to the period 2019-2025 with a target of 50 publications. The resulting data were then screened until data extraction using the Covidence application. The study selection process used the PICOC-Prisma scheme. In the data screening process, the following eligibility criteria were used:

Table 1. Data screening process.

PICOC	Inclusion	Exclusion
Population	Indonesian society consists of various religious, ethnic and cultural groups.	Relevant research in Indonesia in terms of social and religious diversity .
Intervention	Religious moderation focuses on a moderate and inclusive understanding of religion, avoiding extremism and building tolerance among religious communities.	Just discussing religious moderation, no fanaticism
Comparison	Individuals or groups who practice religious moderation versus individuals or groups who demonstrate religious fanaticism.	Studies that only focus on one side
Outcome	Results such as: reduction of religious fanaticism, increased social tolerance, and strengthening multiculturalism in Indonesia.	Studies that do not relate to strengthening multiculturalism.
Context	The application of religious moderation in the Indonesian context to strengthen multiculturalism and interfaith harmony. Published in scientific journals and proceedings. Published in 2019-2025. Full text available.	Studies not relevant to the context of multiculturalism and interfaith harmony in Indonesia. Studies not published in indexed scientific journals or not available in full text.

3. Results And Discussion

After going through PRISMA, we obtained research results relevant to digital literacy in Islamic Religious Education learning. Of the 50 related journals, six articles were found to be relevant, as follows:

Table 2. lts relevant to digital literacy in Islamic Religious Education learning.

No	Journal	Title	Writer	Results
1	TAJDID: Journal of Islamic and Humanitarian Thought, Vol. 6, No. 2, October 2022, pp. 168-182	Religious Moderation in a Multicultural Society	Susanti	Religious moderation is an element needed to foster an attitude of mutual understanding and respect for differences that can create harmony between religious communities in society.

2	FIKROT UNA: Journal of Islamic Education and Management, Vol. 12, No. 2 December 2023, Pages 198-217	Installation of Religious Moderation Values in Multi Ethnic And Religious Communities in Polagan Galis Pamekasan Village	Faithful and Fitriyah	The results of the study show that the process of instilling the values of religious moderation carried out by Islamic boarding schools in their efforts to form a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society that is harmonious, friendly, tolerant, and lives side by side in differences in both ethnicity and religious beliefs.
3	Journal of Population and Social Studies, Vol 31. February 2023, Pages 571-586	Strengthening Religious Moderation: Learning from the Harmony of Multireligious People in Indonesia	Mirzon Daheri, Idi Warsah, Ruly Morgana	This study found five factors of religious moderation demonstrated by the Sekaran community, namely the principle of togetherness, socio-religious traditions, social traditions related to the values of the Republic of Indonesia, and family.
4	Penamas Journal, Vol. 36, No. 1, June 2023, Pages 19-36	The Religious Moderation For Indonesian Muslim Middle Class: Challenges And Solutions	Wasisto Raharjo Jati	The main causes that need to be mentioned, such as religious narcissism, blasphemy, and hate speech, which hinder the implementation of religious moderation.
5	INFERE NCE: Journal of Social and Religious Research, Vol. 16, No. 2, March 2023, pp. 301-320	Building Religious Moderation Through a Behavior Approach to Tolerance and Anti-Radicalism in Adolescents	Nailul Fauziyah, Fina Hidayati	Building religious moderation through a tolerance approach and anti-radicalization behavior in adolescents with a perspective of accepting differences, and upholding the values of diversity among religious communities.
6	Proceedings of the International Conference on Islamic Education (ICIED), Vol. 9, no. 1, December	Integration of Religious Moderation Based on Socio-Cultural and Religious Values in the Curriculum of Educational Institutions	Abu Bakar, Angga Teguh Prastyo, Prayudi Lestantyo	Sociocultural and religious values can be used to enrich religious moderation materials in schools and other educational institutions. The implications of using sociocultural and religious values in developing religious moderation can make religious moderation more relevant and

2024, Page 644	relevant to students' lives in responding to social issues and religious fundamentalism.

How can the concept of religious moderation be applied in Indonesia's multicultural society?

The concept of religious moderation can be applied in Indonesia's multicultural society through an approach that emphasizes the values of tolerance and mutual respect between religious communities. Indonesia, which consists of various ethnicities, religions, and cultures, requires a concept that can unite these differences in national and state life (Siddiq, 2019). He stated that religious moderation aims to maintain a balance between a deep understanding of religion and openness to diversity. By prioritizing the principles of moderation, society can reduce the potential for tensions arising from religious differences and foster an understanding that diversity is a gift that must be protected and respected.

One effective way to implement religious moderation is through inclusive religious education based on the principles of diversity. Rahman (2020) explains that religious education that teaches the importance of moderation can shape a generation that is more open and accepting of differences, while avoiding exclusive and sectarian attitudes. In this regard, the religious education curriculum must be designed to instill values of unity and teach the importance of respecting other religions and cultures. Along with this, Adnan (2021) suggests that interfaith interaction through social and cultural activities can strengthen mutual understanding and reduce the potential for social friction.

In addition to formal education, the media plays a crucial role in introducing and disseminating the concept of religious moderation. Fajri (2020) emphasized that mass media and social platforms can be effective tools for promoting the values of moderation by presenting content that educates the public about the importance of diversity in religious life. In this regard, the government also plays a crucial role in formulating policies that support religious inclusivity and prevent the spread of radical ideologies that can undermine interfaith harmony.

What are the factors that influence the emergence of religious fanaticism in Indonesia?

Religious fanaticism in Indonesia can be influenced by various factors, both internal and external. One of the main factors driving the emergence of religious fanaticism is the influence of an immoderate understanding of religion. Husni (2020) explains that the misuse of religious teachings for specific interests, both by individuals and groups, can lead to distorted understanding that results in fanaticism. In many cases, a narrow and dogmatic understanding of religion is a key driver of fanaticism, where individuals believe that only their beliefs are true and view others as enemies.

Furthermore, social and economic factors also play a significant role in the development of religious fanaticism. Nasution (2019) revealed that social injustice, such as poverty, unemployment, and social inequality, is often exploited by certain groups to spread extreme religious ideologies. Individuals who feel marginalized and lack fair access to social and economic opportunities are often more easily influenced by radical groups offering solutions in the form of radical religious understandings. Mustafa (2021) added that dissatisfaction with socio-political conditions is also an important factor that can trigger fanaticism, especially among groups who feel marginalized in the political and governmental process.

The role of social media in spreading fanaticism cannot be underestimated. Fadhli (2020) points out that social media has become a platform that enables the rapid and widespread spread of extreme religious ideologies. The dissemination of unverified information, as well as the use of algorithms that reinforce bias, can trap individuals in a filtering environment that reinforces their fanatical views. In this context, it is crucial for the

government and society to strengthen digital literacy and combat hoaxes that can exacerbate religious polarization.

How can religious moderation reduce the impact of fanaticism in the social life of Indonesian society?

Religious moderation can play a crucial role in reducing the impact of religious fanaticism on Indonesian social life by teaching the principle of balance between religious belief and respect for diversity. Azra (2020) states that religious moderation teaches religious followers to understand that religion is not only about individual interests, but also about coexisting with others in a pluralistic society. This concept encourages religious followers to be tolerant, respect differences, and maintain harmony in a multicultural society.

Furthermore, religious moderation can be implemented through educational programs that emphasize the importance of interfaith cooperation. Syukur & Fadhilah (2021) demonstrated that education that teaches moderate values, such as empathy, understanding, and respect for others, can reduce the tendency for individuals to fall into fanaticism. With inclusive religious education, the younger generation can be shaped to be more open to differences and less influenced by exclusive ideologies. Furthermore, social activities involving various religious groups can strengthen interfaith cooperation networks, thereby minimizing the potential for conflict.

Religious moderation can also mitigate the impact of fanaticism by promoting a broader understanding of religion. (Husaini et al., 2022) explain that religious moderation teaches people to view religion as a source of peace and harmony, rather than as a tool for division. Thus, this concept can reduce tensions arising from narrow and fanatical religious views. The government, media, and religious institutions need to work together to implement effective religious moderation programs at the community level to create a more harmonious and inclusive social life.

4. Conclusion And Suggestions

This research shows that religious moderation plays a crucial role in reducing religious fanaticism in Indonesia. Religious moderation can be implemented through religious education based on inclusive and tolerant values, while strengthening interfaith harmony. In a multicultural society like Indonesia, religious moderation is an effective approach to addressing potential tensions arising from religious and cultural differences. Furthermore, factors influencing the emergence of religious fanaticism, such as narrow religious understanding, social injustice, and social media, need to be addressed and addressed with policies that support harmony and tolerance. Implementing religious moderation can mitigate the negative impacts of fanaticism by promoting mutual respect and appreciation for differences in Indonesian society.

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