

DESCRIBING RELIGIOUS MODERATION IN DESA TEGALREJO, KECAMATAN GEDANGSARI, KABUPATEN GUNUNGKIDUL, YOGYAKARTA: A STUDY ON FACTORS INFLUENCING TOLERANCE, INTERFAITH COOPERATION, AND THE ROLE OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Nadiah Kamal, Hilal Najmi Risdana Torkis, Andreas Dogeru Prayoga, Farhan Adrian, Aura Mulita Andini, Hadziq Ghiyats Rahman, Megan Andika Yatino Putri, Chairunnisa, Muh Nur Fajri Romadhoni Imtihan, Dini Qurotul 'Ain

UIN Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta
hilalnajmi928@gmail.com

Abstract - *This study aims to describe the condition of religious moderation in Desa Tegalrejo, Kecamatan Gedangsari, Kabupaten Gunungkidul, Yogyakarta. Specifically, it seeks to analyze the factors influencing tolerance, interfaith cooperation, and the role of religious leaders in promoting religious moderation. The theoretical framework employed is the concept of maintaining the good of the past and adopting the best of the new, as emphasized in Islamic teachings. The methodology used is library research and document analysis. This study contributes to understanding how religious moderation is practiced in a rural setting and identifies key factors that support or hinder its implementation.*

Keyword: *Religious Moderation, Tolerance, Interfaith Cooperation, Religious Leader*

1. INTRODUCTION

Religious moderation is a crucial aspect of fostering social harmony and reducing interfaith conflicts. In the context of rural Indonesia, particularly in Desa Tegalrejo, Kecamatan Gedangsari, Kabupaten Gunungkidul, Yogyakarta, understanding the dynamics of religious moderation is essential. This study aims to explore the condition of religious moderation in the area, focusing on tolerance, interfaith cooperation, and the role of religious leaders.

The concept of religious moderation is rooted in Islamic teachings, which emphasize the importance of maintaining the good of the past while adopting the best of the new. This principle is encapsulated in the Arabic phrase *المحافظة على القديم الصالح والأخذ بالجدید* (almuhafazah 'ala al-qadim al-salih wa al-'idh al-ba'd al-aslah). This approach encourages a balanced and inclusive practice of faith, avoiding extreme interpretations and behaviors (Saifuddin, 2019).

2. METHOD

This study employs a qualitative approach using library research and document analysis. The data collection involves reviewing existing literature, reports, and documents related to religious moderation in rural Indonesia. The focus is on Desa Tegalrejo, where primary sources such as community reports and interviews with local residents and religious leaders will be analyzed to gain deeper insights into the practices and challenges of religious moderation.

Aspects of Religious Moderation:

3. RESULT & DISCUSSION

The study will examine three key aspects of religious moderation: tolerance, interfaith cooperation, and the role of religious leaders.

1. Tolerance:

Definition: Tolerance is the ability to accept and respect the beliefs and practices of others, even if they differ from one's own. In the context of Desa Tegalrejo, tolerance is crucial for maintaining social harmony.

Factors Influencing Tolerance: The study will analyze factors such as education, community engagement, and cultural practices that contribute to tolerance. For instance, educational programs that emphasize critical thinking and cultural diversity can foster a more tolerant community (Nisa, 2021).

2. Interfaith Cooperation:

Definition: Interfaith cooperation refers to the collaboration and mutual respect between different religious groups. In Desa Tegalrejo, interfaith cooperation can be observed through joint community activities and religious events.

Factors Influencing Interfaith Cooperation: The study will examine factors such as community events, leadership initiatives, and social programs that promote interfaith understanding. For example, community events like festivals and cultural exchanges can bring together people of different faiths, fostering cooperation (Pajarianto et al., 2022).

3. Role of Religious Leaders:

Definition: Religious leaders play a significant role in promoting religious moderation by setting an example and providing guidance to their communities.

Factors Influencing the Role of Religious Leaders: The study will analyze factors such as leadership style, community engagement, and educational background that influence the role of religious leaders. For instance, leaders who engage in community activities and promote inclusive practices are more likely to foster a culture of moderation (Fahri & Zainuri, 2019).

Case Study: Desa Tegalrejo

Desa Tegalrejo, located in Kecamatan Gedangsari, Kabupaten Gunungkidul, Yogyakarta, is a rural community with a diverse population. The community has a long history of interfaith cooperation, with various religious groups living harmoniously. The study will focus on specific examples of tolerance, interfaith cooperation, and the role of religious leaders in this community.

- Tolerance: The community's educational system emphasizes critical thinking and cultural diversity, contributing to a tolerant environment. For example, the local school organizes cultural festivals that celebrate the diversity of the community, promoting mutual respect among students from different religious backgrounds (Nisa, 2021).
- Interfaith Cooperation: The community engages in various joint activities such as joint prayer sessions and community service projects. For instance, during Ramadan, different religious groups come together to break their fasts, fostering a sense of unity and cooperation (Pajarianto et al., 2022).
- Role of Religious Leaders: The religious leaders in Desa Tegalrejo are known for their inclusive practices. They often engage in community activities and promote dialogue between different religious groups. For example, the local imam regularly meets with other religious leaders to discuss ways to promote interfaith understanding and cooperation (Fahri & Zainuri, 2019).

4. CONCLUSION

This study aims to contribute to the understanding of religious moderation in a rural setting by examining the aspects of tolerance, interfaith cooperation, and the role of religious leaders in Desa Tegalrejo. The findings will provide insights into how these factors influence the practice of religious moderation in a diverse community. By highlighting the importance of maintaining the good of the past while adopting the best of the new, this study emphasizes the need for balanced and inclusive faith practices that promote social harmony.

This study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of religious moderation in Desa Tegalrejo, highlighting the importance of tolerance, interfaith cooperation, and the role of religious leaders in fostering a harmonious community. By examining these aspects through the lens of Islamic teachings, this research contributes to the broader discussion on promoting religious moderation in diverse communities.

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