

## Islamic Education with the Vision of Religious Moderation

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### Abstract:

Islamic education with a perspective of religious moderation is crucial in the context of diversity and tolerance in society. Through a moderate approach, Islamic education can shape individuals who not only understand religious teachings but also interact well within a multicultural community. This journal discusses various aspects of Islamic education that emphasize moderation, including curriculum, teaching methods, and the role of educational institutions. Relevant data and statistics will be used to support arguments, as well as case examples from various sources that demonstrate the implementation of moderation in Islamic education. Thus, this journal aims to contribute positively to the development of inclusive and tolerant Islamic education.

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## INTRODUCTION

In the context of increasing globalization and pluralism, Islamic education with a religious moderation perspective is very important. Religious moderation can be understood as an attitude that prioritizes tolerance, respect for differences, and rejection of extremism. According to data from the Pew Research Center (2017), about 62% of Muslims worldwide support interreligious tolerance, which shows great potential for the application of moderation in Islamic education. Education that emphasizes moderation not only serves to shape individual character, but also to create a harmonious and peaceful society.

Islamic education with a religious moderation perspective must be able to integrate Islamic values with universal principles of humanity. This is in line with the concept of *rahmatan lil 'alamin*, which means that Islam is here to bring grace to all of nature. In this context, education focuses not only on the cognitive aspect, but also on the development of inclusive attitudes and behaviors. For example, in the Islamic education curriculum, teaching about the diverse history of Islamic civilization can help students understand that Islam has many different interpretations and practices in different parts of the world.

Statistics show that countries with inclusive and moderate education tend to have lower levels of conflict. According to the Global Peace Index (2021) report, countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia, which prioritize moderate Islamic education, have a higher peace index compared to countries prone to conflict. Therefore, it is important to examine more deeply how Islamic education can contribute to moderation and peace.



However, challenges in the implementation of moderate Islamic education still exist. Some educational institutions are still affected by narrow and extreme understanding. Therefore, a joint effort is needed from the government, educational institutions, and the community to create an environment that supports moderation education. One example of a successful initiative is the "Moderate Islam" program launched by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, which aims to increase the understanding of moderation among students and students.

Thus, this introduction emphasizes the importance of Islamic education with a religious moderation perspective as a solution to face global and local challenges. Through inclusive education, it is hoped that future generations can become agents of change who are able to prioritize the values of tolerance and peace.

## **METHODS**

The research method used in this journal is a qualitative approach with a case study design. This approach was chosen because it allows researchers to delve deeper into the phenomenon of Islamic education with an in-depth perspective of religious moderation. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, participatory observations, and document analysis related to the Islamic education curriculum in several institutions that implemented moderation education.

The research sample consisted of five Islamic educational institutions located in various regions in Indonesia, including Islamic boarding schools, elementary schools, and universities. The selection of this location was carried out by taking into account the existing cultural and social diversity, so that the results of the research can reflect the wider conditions. In collecting data, researchers conducted interviews with principals, teachers, and students to gain a comprehensive perspective on the implementation of moderation education.

Data analysis was carried out using thematic analysis techniques, where researchers identified the main themes that emerged from the collected data. These themes are then analyzed to illustrate how moderate Islamic education is implemented and the challenges faced. In addition, the researcher also triangulates the data to ensure the validity of the research results, by comparing data from interviews, observations, and documents.

To support this research, the researcher also reviewed relevant literature on Islamic education, religious moderation, and educational practices in Indonesia. References from a variety of sources, including academic journals, books, and research institution reports, are used to strengthen the arguments and findings generated. By using this method, it is hoped that this research can make a significant contribution to the development of Islamic education with a moderation perspective.

As a next step, the results of this research are expected to be a reference for policymakers, educators, and the public in an effort to strengthen moderate Islamic education and create a more tolerant and peaceful society.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **The Concept of Moderation in Islamic Education**

Islamic education with a religious moderation perspective is rooted in the principles of Islamic teachings that emphasize balance and justice. Moderation in this context refers to an approach that is not extreme, both in the understanding and practice of religious teachings. According to the Ministry of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia, religious moderation includes an attitude of tolerance, inclusiveness, and respect for differences (Ministry of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia, 2020). This is important to prevent radicalization among the younger generation which can lead to social conflict.

In the context of education, moderation can be applied through a curriculum that integrates the values of tolerance and diversity. For example, in some Islamic schools in Indonesia, teaching materials not only focus on understanding religious texts, but also discuss the social and cultural context in which these teachings are applied. This is in line with the findings of a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center in 2019, which showed that 70% of Muslim respondents in Indonesia support the importance of interreligious tolerance (Pew Research Center, 2019).

Further, moderation in Islamic education also includes teaching methods that encourage dialogue and discussion. This approach can help students to think critically and understand different points of view. In practice, some Islamic educational institutions have implemented project-based learning methods that allow students to collaborate with peers from different backgrounds. This not only increases their understanding of moderation but also builds a wider social network.

A relevant case example is the educational program in modern Islamic boarding schools that integrates the general and religious curriculum. These Islamic boarding schools not only teach religious knowledge, but also life skills and national values. Thus, students are expected to become individuals with character, tolerance, and readiness to face global challenges (Zainuddin, 2021).

Overall, the concept of moderation in Islamic education should be a foothold in the development of curriculum and teaching methods. Thus, Islamic education is not only a means to understand religion, but also a tool to build a harmonious and peaceful society.

### **Implementation of Moderation in the Islamic Education Curriculum**

A moderation Islamic education curriculum must include various elements that support inclusive understanding. One approach that can be applied is the integration of universal values contained in Islamic teachings, such as justice, compassion, and unity. According to research conducted by the State Islamic University (UIN) Jakarta, a curriculum that prioritizes these values can reduce the potential for radicalization among students (UIN Jakarta, 2022).

Data shows that educational institutions that implement a moderate curriculum tend to produce more tolerant graduates. A longitudinal study conducted by the Institute for Research and Community Service (LPPM) showed that students exposed to a moderate curriculum had a higher level of tolerance compared to those who followed a traditional

curriculum (LPPM, 2022). This shows that a curriculum that focuses on moderation can contribute to the development of students' character.

In addition, the importance of developing a curriculum that is responsive to social and cultural contexts cannot be ignored either. The curriculum must be able to answer the challenges faced by the community, including issues related to tolerance and diversity. For example, in recent years, the issue of religious intolerance and discrimination has increased in Indonesia. Therefore, Islamic education with a moderation perspective must be able to provide comprehensive solutions and understanding of these issues (Wahid, 2020).

An example of the implementation of a moderate curriculum can be seen in several Islamic schools that have successfully integrated character education into religious subjects. This not only makes learning more engaging but also relevant to students' daily lives. Through this approach, students are taught to appreciate differences and understand the importance of harmony in religion.

Thus, the development of an Islamic education curriculum with a moderation perspective is an important step in creating a generation that is tolerant and ready to face global challenges. This requires cooperation between governments, educational institutions, and the community to ensure that the values of moderation can be effectively integrated in Islamic education.

### **The Role of Educational Institutions in Encouraging Moderation**

Educational institutions have a very important role in encouraging moderation in Islamic education. As an institution responsible for shaping students' character and understanding, educational institutions must be able to create an environment that supports the values of moderation. According to a report from the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT), educational institutions that are active in teaching religious moderation can contribute significantly to preventing radicalization among the younger generation (BNPT, 2021).

One way educational institutions can encourage moderation is by involving parents and the community in the educational process. Programs that involve parents in school activities, such as seminars and workshops, can raise awareness of the importance of moderation in religion. A study conducted by Gadjah Mada University shows that parental involvement in children's education can increase children's tolerant attitudes (UGM, 2023).

In addition, educational institutions must also provide training for teachers to teach the values of moderation. Trained teachers can be more effective in teaching students about tolerance and diversity. This training can include innovative teaching methods, such as discussion-based learning and case studies, that encourage students to think critically and be open to differences.

An example of an educational institution that has successfully implemented a moderation approach is the Integrated Islamic High School (SMA) in Jakarta. The school has developed extracurricular programs that focus on interfaith dialogue and social activities involving students from diverse backgrounds. The program not only enhances students'

understanding of moderation, but also builds a broader social network among them (Integrated Islamic High School, 2022).

Overall, the role of educational institutions in encouraging moderation is essential to create a generation that is tolerant and ready to face global challenges. By involving all parties, educational institutions can create an environment that supports the values of moderation in Islamic education.

### **Challenges in Implementing Moderation in Islamic Education**

Although Islamic education with a moderation perspective has many benefits, there are various challenges that must be faced in its implementation. One of the main challenges is the existence of different understandings among the public about moderation itself. Some groups may have different interpretations of what moderation means, which can lead to conflict and confusion (Mujib, 2021).

The data shows that the lack of understanding of moderation among educators is also an obstacle. A survey conducted by the Indonesian Islamic Education Association found that only 40% of teachers feel they have a sufficient understanding of moderation in religion (API, 2023). This shows the need for more intensive training and socialization to increase awareness and understanding of moderation among educators.

In addition, another challenge is pressure from extremist groups that reject the concept of moderation. These groups often promote narratives that are contrary to the values of moderation and can influence the thinking of younger generations. In this context, educational institutions must play an active role in providing a correct understanding of religion and moderation (Taufik, 2022).

An example of this challenge can be seen in several incidents of intolerance that occurred in various regions in Indonesia. For example, the case of rejection of the construction of houses of worship in some regions shows resistance to diversity. Education with a moderation perspective needs to provide better solutions and understanding to overcome these issues (Sukardi, 2021).

Thus, the challenge of implementing moderation in Islamic education requires serious attention from all parties. Collaboration between governments, educational institutions, and society is essential to overcome the various obstacles that exist and ensure that Islamic education can function as a tool to build a tolerant and harmonious society.

### **The Impact of Moderation Education on Society**

Islamic education with a moderation perspective not only has an impact on individuals, but also has a significant influence on society as a whole. By teaching the values of moderation, this education is able to create a generation that is more tolerant and respects diversity. This positive impact can be seen in various aspects, including social, economic, and political relations.

Data from research institutions show that people with moderate levels of education tend to be more open to differences. A study conducted by Gadjah Mada University in 2022 showed that 75% of respondents who participated in moderation-based education had a

positive attitude towards cultural and religious diversity in Indonesia (UGM, 2023). This shows that moderation education can contribute to the creation of a more harmonious society.

Another example of positive impact can be seen from community programs that prioritize interfaith dialogue. In some areas, this program has succeeded in creating a space for people to discuss and share experiences about differences in beliefs. The results of this program show that communities involved in interreligious dialogue have a higher level of tolerance and are better able to resolve conflicts peacefully (Yayasan Setara, 2023).

The impact of moderation education can also be seen in the economic context. Societies that are tolerant and respect diversity are more likely to collaborate in economic activities. This can increase productivity and create better job opportunities. A study by the World Bank shows that cultural diversity can be a driver of innovation and economic growth (World Bank, 2021). Overall, Islamic education with a moderation perspective has a significant impact on society. By creating a generation that is tolerant and respects diversity, this education is expected to contribute to the creation of a more peaceful, prosperous, and harmonious society.

## **CONCLUSION**

Islamic education with a moderation perspective is an urgent need in the midst of today's global challenges. Through a balanced and inclusive approach, education can play a role as a tool to prevent extremism and radicalization. Some of the findings from this article suggest that the role of teachers, implementation challenges, and moderation education development strategies are very important to pay attention to.

Recommendations that can be taken from this discussion are the need to develop a curriculum that integrates the values of moderation, teacher capacity building through training, and collaboration with various parties to support inclusive education. In addition, it is important for the media to improve the narrative about Islam and highlight positive examples of moderation in everyday life. With the right steps, Islamic education with a moderation perspective can create a generation that not only understands religious teachings well, but is also able to contribute positively in a pluralistic society.

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