

RELIGIOUS MODERATION IN A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY IN THE AGE OF TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY

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Abstrak

Moderasi beragama adalah konsep yang mengedepankan keseimbangan dalam menjalankan keyakinan beragama di masyarakat. Saat ini, perkembangan teknologi dan industri telah menciptakan lanskap baru dalam interaksi sosial, yang mempengaruhi keberagaman masyarakat. Teknologi informasi, terutama media sosial, memungkinkan individu menyebarkan pandangan agama dengan mudah, baik yang moderat maupun ekstrem. Namun, perkembangan ini juga menimbulkan tantangan, terutama dalam menjaga nilai-nilai toleransi dan kerukunan antarumat beragama. Dengan pendekatan kualitatif, penelitian ini mengkaji isu-isu utama yang memengaruhi penerapan moderasi beragama di era digital dan industri. Hasil penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memberikan wawasan bagi pembuat kebijakan, pemuka agama, dan masyarakat luas dalam mewujudkan kehidupan yang harmonis. Implikasi penelitian ini adalah memperkaya kajian interdisipliner antara studi agama, sosiologi, dan teknologi. Konsep moderasi beragama yang diangkat dalam konteks masyarakat multikultural dan kemajuan teknologi memberi kontribusi terhadap pemahaman baru mengenai dinamika keberagaman di era digital, terutama dalam menganalisis perubahan pola interaksi, penyebaran nilai keagamaan, dan tantangan radikalisme digital. Selain itu juga menjadi penguatan nilai-nilai moderasi beragama dapat menjadi fondasi penting dalam menciptakan harmoni sosial di tengah keberagaman (SARA). Dalam masyarakat yang semakin terhubung melalui teknologi, sikap saling menghormati dan toleransi antarumat beragama harus dikuatkan untuk mencegah konflik dan disintegrasi sosial.

Kata Kunci: Moderasi Beragama, Multikultural, Teknologi, Industri, Toleransi

Abstract

Religious moderation is a concept that prioritizes balance in carrying out religious beliefs in society. Today, technological and industrial developments have created a new landscape in social interaction, which affects the religious diversity of society. Information technology, especially social media, allows individuals to disseminate religious views easily, both moderate and extreme. However, this development also poses challenges, especially in maintaining the values of tolerance and harmony between religious communities. This article explores the importance of religious moderation in a multicultural society and the impact of technological and industrial developments on people's religious practices. With a qualitative approach, this study examines the main issues that affect the implementation of religious moderation in the digital and industrial era. The results of this research are expected to provide insight for policymakers, religious leaders, and the wider community in realizing a harmonious life. The implication of this research is to enrich interdisciplinary studies between the study of religion, sociology, and technology. The concept of religious moderation raised in the context of multicultural society and technological advances contributes to a new understanding of the dynamics of religion in the digital era, especially in analyzing changes in interaction patterns, the spread of religious values, and the challenges of digital radicalism. In addition, it is also a strengthening of the values of religious moderation that can be an important foundation in creating social harmony in the midst of (SARA). In a society that is increasingly connected through technology, mutual respect and tolerance between religions must be strengthened to prevent conflict and social disintegration.

Keywords: Religious Moderation, Multicultural, Technology, Industry, Tolerance

Introduction

The modern era with rapid technological and industrial developments has brought many changes in various aspects of people's lives, including in terms of religion. Globalization, which is an inevitable phenomenon, has opened up geographical and cultural boundaries, allowing people from diverse backgrounds to interact with each other and share information on an unprecedented scale[1]. This is especially evident in the development of information technology that allows the dissemination of information in seconds. Technology has allowed people to access a wide variety of information, including religious information, from a variety of sources and perspectives. On the other hand, industrial developments have also shaped people's mindsets and lifestyles, which ultimately affect their views on religion and religious values[2].

Indonesia is a country with a multicultural and multireligious society consisting of various ethnicities, ethnicities, and religions that coexist. In this diverse society, religious tolerance and moderation are essential to maintain harmony. Religious moderation in this context refers to an attitude that is not extreme in practicing religion, respecting diversity, and encouraging interfaith dialogue. However, rapid technological developments also bring new challenges in efforts to maintain religious moderation. The uncontrolled dissemination of information through social media, for example, can trigger the spread of extreme ideas that are contrary to the values of moderation and tolerance.

Research Methods

This study uses a qualitative method with a case study approach. This approach was chosen to gain a deep understanding of the phenomenon of religious moderation in a multicultural society, especially in the context of technological and industrial developments[3]. This method involves collecting data through interviews with religious leaders, observers of social issues, and community members from various religious and cultural backgrounds. In addition, this study also uses secondary data in the form of literature studies related to the issue of religious moderation, technological developments, and the impact of industry on people's religious patterns.

The data collected was then thematically analyzed to identify key themes related to religious moderation in the digital and industrial ages. This analysis covers various aspects, ranging from public views on religious moderation, the influence of social media on religious diversity, to community responses to challenges in maintaining religious moderation. This qualitative approach allows researchers to delve deeper into individual and community perceptions and experiences related to religious moderation[4].

Discussion

The Implementation of Religious Moderation in Multicultural Societies

The application of religious moderation in a multicultural society is very important to create harmony and tolerance between religious communities. Religious moderation can be understood as an attitude that prioritizes tolerance, mutual respect, and avoidance of extremism in religion. In the context of a multicultural society, the application of religious moderation aims to reduce conflicts that often arise due to differences in beliefs and cultures.

In practice, religious moderation can be done through education that emphasizes the importance of tolerance and respect for diversity. This educational program not only focuses on the teachings of each religion, but also introduces the universal values that underlie all religions, such as compassion, justice, and peace. In addition, training for religious leaders in understanding multicultural contexts is also crucial. That way, they can be role models in promoting a moderate attitude in their community.

Interreligious dialogue is one effective way to implement religious moderation. Through dialogue, various parties can listen to each other and understand each other's perspectives. These dialogue forums can be held at the local and national levels, involving community leaders, religious leaders, and academics. Constructive dialogue can help build trust and reduce prejudice among different groups.

In addition, the role of the media in supporting religious moderation cannot be ignored. The media can be a means to disseminate correct and positive information about religions in society. By showcasing inspiring stories about interfaith collaboration and humanitarian projects, the media can help shape more tolerant public opinion.

In its implementation, challenges in implementing religious moderation also need to be faced, such as intolerance or radicalization. Therefore, cooperation between governments, civil society, and religious organizations is needed to create an environment conducive to moderation. These efforts must involve all elements of society so that religious moderation can be widely accepted and implemented.[5]

A moderate attitude in religion does not mean reducing belief in the religious teachings adhered to, but rather on how a person can practice his religious teachings while still respecting the existence of followers of other religions. This is reflected in the philosophy of "Bhinneka Tunggal Ika" which has been firmly rooted in the tradition of social life in Indonesia.

The practice of religious moderation in a multicultural society can be seen from various traditions that have developed in various regions in Indonesia. For example, how people in various

regions can combine religious values with local wisdom without causing conflict. Traditions such as salvation, mutual cooperation in the construction of houses of worship, and the celebration of religious holidays involving all elements of society are clear examples of the implementation of religious moderation.

To strengthen religious moderation, an active role is needed from various parties, ranging from the government, religious leaders, community leaders, to educational institutions. Educational institutions have a strategic role in instilling the values of religious moderation from an early age through an inclusive curriculum and learning that prioritizes tolerance. Meanwhile, religious leaders and community leaders can be role models in showing a moderate and wise attitude in responding to differences.

In the end, religious moderation is not just a theoretical concept, but a practical necessity in building a harmonious social life. Through the consistent implementation of religious moderation, Indonesian people can continue to maintain unity and unity in the midst of existing diversity. A moderate attitude in religion will help prevent social conflicts and create an environment conducive to the development of the nation as a whole.

Religious moderation plays a role in ensuring that religion is carried out in a balanced, not extreme, and prioritizing tolerance and understanding between religious communities. For many people, religious moderation is an effort to maintain harmony in the midst of differences, so that people can coexist peacefully without religious conflicts.

In fact, the application of religious moderation is not always easy, because each religious group has different interpretations and beliefs. Some more conservative groups may see religious moderation as a form of compromise that is not in keeping with their teachings. They worry that moderation could obscure the basic values of the religion they believe in. On the other hand, more progressive groups tend to view moderation as a way to reduce conflict and build more harmonious relationships in society.

However, the challenge of maintaining religious moderation remains, especially in the fast-paced digital era. Information about various religious interpretations, including extreme ones, can be easily accessed and disseminated. Many people are exposed to various different religious views, both moderate and radical. This condition requires greater efforts from religious leaders and the community to educate the public about the importance of religious moderation in order to create peace and tolerance in diversity.

Industrial and technological developments, such as social media can affect diversity and tolerance in society.

Industrial and technological developments, especially social media, have a significant impact on diversity and tolerance in society. Social media allows individuals to interact and communicate with people from different cultural and religious backgrounds. With wider access to information, people can learn about existing differences and find common ground that can build understanding.[6]

However, social media can also be a double-edged sword. On the one hand, these platforms provide a space to express themselves and share experiences. On the other hand, they can also facilitate the spread of misinformation and hate speech, which can exacerbate tensions between groups. This suggests that while technology offers opportunities to improve tolerance, it can also exacerbate polarization if not managed properly.

Good education on media literacy is very important in this context. With the right understanding of how to use social media wisely, people can be more critical of the information they receive. This includes the ability to distinguish between accurate information and fake news, as well as understanding the cultural context of various viewpoints. This kind of education can help build a more tolerant and respectful society in the midst of diversity.

Furthermore, initiatives that encourage intercultural collaboration on social media can also contribute positively to tolerance. For example, campaigns that feature stories of diversity and the achievements of individuals from different backgrounds can help foster a sense of empathy and mutual respect. This kind of initiative, if carried out consistently, can create a positive narrative that prioritizes harmony in society.

The spread of hoaxes and disinformation related to religious issues is also a serious problem in the digital era. The speed of information dissemination on social media is often not balanced by adequate verification capabilities. As a result, narratives that are misleading or trigger conflicts between religious communities can easily be widely spread and accepted as truth by some people.

However, challenges remain, such as the existence of algorithms that tend to reinforce echo chambers, where users are only exposed to views that align with their own beliefs. This phenomenon can hinder constructive dialogue between different groups. Therefore, it takes collective awareness to address these challenges and leverage technology in a way that supports diversity and tolerance.

In this context, technology can be an effective tool to promote religious moderation, but it also requires good digital awareness and literacy. The public needs to be educated to be able to sort

out information and recognize content that triggers polarization. In addition, cooperation between the government, social media platforms, and religious communities is also needed to control the spread of extreme content that can damage social harmony. Thus, technology can be used to strengthen religious moderation and not the other way around.

Religious moderation can prevent social conflict in a multicultural society

Religious moderation plays an important role in preventing social conflict in multicultural societies. By emphasizing the values of tolerance, mutual respect, and understanding between religious communities, religious moderation creates an environment conducive to coexistence. In a society rich in diversity, a moderate attitude can help ease tensions that may arise due to differences in religious beliefs and practices.

Moderate attitudes in religion also encourage dialogue and communication between groups. Through dialogue, individuals can understand each other's perspectives, which reduces the potential for misunderstandings that can lead to conflict. Discussion forums involving a wide range of stakeholders, such as religious leaders, community leaders, and academics, can strengthen understanding and expand social networks among different communities.

The implementation of religious moderation can also be seen in inclusive public policies. Governments and related institutions need to play an active role in formulating policies that support diversity and avoid discrimination. Policies that recognize and protect the rights of all religious groups and encourage their participation in social and political life can create stability and reduce the potential for conflict.

However, challenges in implementing religious moderation remain, including provocations from irresponsible parties. Therefore, cooperation between various elements of society is needed to strengthen the commitment to moderation. Thus, religious moderation is not only the responsibility of a particular individual or group, but is a collective effort to create a harmonious and peaceful society.

Education oriented towards religious moderation can be an effective tool in preventing social conflicts. Through education, individuals are taught to understand and appreciate the values of other religions, so as to prevent prejudice and negative stereotypes. This kind of education is important to build awareness and empathy among the younger generation, who are the next generation of multicultural societies.[7]

Interreligious dialogue is also an important strategy in religious moderation. Through dialogue, various stakeholders can share views and experiences, which strengthens interfaith relationships.

Open and constructive dialogue can reduce tensions and create mutual understanding, so that conflicts can be avoided.

Furthermore, religious moderation can contribute to social stability by creating inclusive communities. When all groups feel valued and recognized, they are more likely to work together and collaborate on social issues. The existence of an inclusive environment can prevent the marginalization of certain groups that are often a trigger for conflict.

Finally, support from community leaders and religious leaders in implementing religious moderation is essential. They have a significant influence in shaping public opinion and can be an example for the public. By showing a moderate attitude and encouraging peace, they can help create a more tolerant and stable society.

In facing the challenges of religious moderation in the digital era, cooperation between various parties is very necessary. Governments, social media platforms, and religious communities must work together to control the spread of extreme content that undermines religious moderation. In addition, religious leaders and community leaders need to be active in providing education to the public about the importance of moderation in religion, as well as promoting the values of tolerance. That way, religious moderation can be maintained in the digital era, and people can live more peacefully and harmoniously in the midst of diversity.

Conclusion

Religious moderation has a very vital role in a multicultural society, especially in today's technological and industrial era. In this context, religious moderation serves as a bridge to build harmony in the midst of diversity. Through an approach that emphasizes tolerance, mutual respect, and interfaith dialogue, religious moderation can help prevent conflicts that may arise from differences in beliefs and cultures.

In the age of technology, social media and digital platforms provide opportunities for wider interaction between individuals from different backgrounds. However, challenges also arise, such as the spread of misinformation and hate speech. Therefore, religious moderation that prioritizes media literacy education is needed to equip people with the ability to think critically and understand the social and cultural context.

Collaborative initiatives involving different religious and cultural groups on digital platforms can strengthen solidarity and mutual understanding. By leveraging technology to share positive stories and constructive experiences, religious moderation can be facilitated more effectively. In this regard, support from religious leaders and community leaders is essential to encourage active participation and create an inclusive environment.

Overall, religious moderation in the era of technology and industry is the key to creating a harmonious, stable, and competitive society. By prioritizing moderate values, a multicultural society can overcome the challenges faced and build a better future for all.

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