

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF RELIGIOUS MODERATION BETWEEN THE YOUNGER GENERATION AND THE OLDER GENERATION

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Abstrak

Moderasi beragama antara generasi muda dan generasi tua menunjukkan bahwa keduanya memiliki karakteristik dan tantangan yang unik. Generasi muda, dengan semangat inovatif dan akses informasi, dapat menjadi agen perubahan yang mendorong toleransi dan pengertian antarumat beragama. Sementara itu, generasi tua memiliki pengalaman dan kebijaksanaan yang penting untuk dijadikan landasan dalam upaya penguatan moderasi beragama, semangat moderasi beragama untuk mencari titik temu dalam beragama. Metode penelitian ini adalah kualitatif, pengumpulan data adalah interview, observasi, dan dokumentasi. Seber data adalah para generasi tua dan generasi muda untuk menemukan dan mencari definisi yang berkaitan dengan fenomena penelitian. Teknik analisis yang digunakan adalah tehnik Descriptive Analysis. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa perbandingan menunjukkan terdapat perbedaan sikap moderasi beragama antar generasi. Generasi muda lebih inklusif, toleran, dan terbuka terhadap perbedaan, yang sebagian besar dipengaruhi oleh interaksi lintas agama di media sosial. Sebaliknya, generasi tua cenderung mempertahankan pandangan yang lebih konservatif, baik dari perspektif agama maupun kebutuhan dalam hidup. Implikasi penelitian ini adalah untuk memahami perbedaan pola pikir dan pendekatan moderasi beragama antar generasi, sehingga dapat menjadi dasar bagi program-program dialog lintas generasi untuk memperkuat harmoni sosial, Pendidikan agama di sekolah dan lembaga keagamaan dapat menyesuaikan metode pengajaran agar lebih relevan dengan kebutuhan masing-masing generasi.

Kata kunci: Moderasi Beragama, Generasi, Akses Informasi.

Abstract

Religious moderation between the younger and older generations shows that both have unique characteristics and challenges. The younger generation, with an innovative spirit and access to information, can become agents of change that encourage tolerance and understanding between religious communities. Meanwhile, the older generation has experience and wisdom that are important to be used as a basis in efforts to strengthen religious moderation, the spirit of religious moderation to find common ground in religion. The method of this research is qualitative, data collection is interview, observation, and documentation. Seber data is the older generation and the younger generation to find and search for definitions related to research phenomena. The analysis technique used is the Descriptive Analysis technique. The results of the study show that the comparison shows that there are differences in religious moderation attitudes between generations. The younger generation is more inclusive, tolerant, and open to differences, which is largely influenced by interfaith interactions on social media. In contrast, older generations tend to maintain more conservative views, both from a religious perspective and the needs of life. The implication of this research is to understand the differences in mindsets and approaches to religious moderation between generations, so that it can be the basis for cross-generational dialogue programs to strengthen social harmony, Religious education in schools and religious institutions can adjust teaching methods to be more relevant to the needs of each generation.

Keywords: Religious Moderation, Generation, Access to Information.

Introduction

Religious moderation is an important topic in maintaining social harmony in an increasingly diverse society. Religious moderation, or moderate attitudes in religion, is a concept that encourages tolerance, openness, and respect for differences. This attitude is important to build harmony between religious communities in the midst of various views that are often different. In the context of the modern era, moderate attitudes can be seen through how people interact and accept differences, especially between the younger generation and the older generation who have different social, educational, and experienced backgrounds.[1]

The difference in religious moderation between the younger generation and the older generation is interesting to study because both face different social and media environments. Older generations generally tend to hold on to traditional values that have been held for a long time, while younger generations are more influenced by technology and social media that provide quick access to a wide range of religious views. As a result, younger generations are more open to diverse religious views and tend to be more adaptive to the concept of moderation, compared to older generations who are more conservative and cautious in accepting change.[2]

Digital technology and social media are one of the main factors that affect the difference in the perception of religious moderation between the young and old generations. The younger generation who are more familiar with technology has broad access to a wide range of inclusive and moderate religious views. Through social media, they connect with religious leaders from various backgrounds who offer open and tolerant views. In contrast, older generations are more likely to obtain religious information through traditional channels, such as lectures at mosques or local communities, which are more limited in terms of diversity of perspectives.

This comparative study between the younger generation and the older generation is important to gain a deep understanding of the role of technology in shaping religious moderation attitudes. This understanding can be the basis for religious leaders, governments, and educational institutions to develop the right strategy in educating the public about the importance of religious moderation, with an approach tailored to each generation. In Indonesia's pluralistic social context, religious moderation is the key to maintaining peace and preventing potential conflicts between people.

Religious moderation is an important concept in the context of diversity and tolerance in society. In Indonesia, known as the country with the largest Muslim population in the world, religious moderation is becoming increasingly relevant as the challenges of radicalization and extremism increase. The study aimed to compare views on religious moderation between younger

and older generations, given the differences in religious experience and understanding that may have influenced their attitudes.[3]

The younger generation, born in the digital era, are often exposed to various information and views about religion through social media and the internet. This can affect the way they understand and practice religion. In contrast, older generations, who grew up in different social and political contexts, tend to have more conventional views and may be more influenced by tradition. As such, this comparison is important to understand how these two generations live the practice of religious moderation in their daily lives.[4]

In addition, differences in education and access to information can also be a key factor in differences in views between the two generations. Young people typically have better access to formal education and more diverse information, which may influence their attitudes toward tolerance and moderation in religion. On the other hand, the older generation may rely more on the experiences and teachings of parents or religious leaders in understanding religious moderation. Therefore, this study will delve deeper into how these factors contribute to the differences in attitudes of religious moderation between the younger and older generations.

In this context, it is important to note that religious moderation is not only concerned with individual attitudes, but also with how religious communities and institutions play a role in shaping that understanding. In other words, religious moderation can be influenced by the existing social and cultural environment, as well as by the interaction between individuals and communities. Therefore, this analysis will consider the role of the community in shaping views of religious moderation between the two generations.

Finally, this study is expected to provide deeper insight into the differences and similarities in the views of religious moderation between the younger and older generations. The results of this study will not only contribute to the academic literature, but may also provide recommendations for policymakers and religious institutions in an effort to promote religious moderation in society.

Religious moderation is a concept that prioritizes a tolerant, balanced, and non-extreme attitude in carrying out religious teachings. This moderation aims to create harmony in a diverse society and avoid conflicts that arise due to differences in beliefs. In the midst of the plurality of Indonesian society, religious moderation has become very relevant and important to be applied in daily life, especially among the younger generation who are in the phase of forming their own identity. In the context of Indonesia, a country with diverse religions and cultures, the application of religious moderation is the key to maintaining national harmony and unity.

Research Methods

In this study, the approach used is a qualitative method, which allows researchers to explore the understanding and in-depth views of respondents regarding religious moderation.[5] The qualitative method was chosen because of its flexible nature and allows researchers to obtain richer data on the perspectives of young and older generations in the context of religious moderation. Through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions, researchers can explore the personal experiences and subjective views of each generation.

In-depth interviews were conducted by selecting respondents from both generations who had diverse religious backgrounds. The younger generation respondents were between 18 and 30 years old, while the older generation was 50 years old and above. The selection process of respondents was carried out by purposive sampling to ensure that they had relevant knowledge and experience regarding the issue of religious moderation. In this way, it is hoped that representative and in-depth data can be obtained on how each generation understands and practices moderation in their religion.

Furthermore, data obtained from interviews and focus group discussions will be analyzed using thematic analysis. This method allows researchers to identify key themes that emerge from the data, as well as comparisons between the views of younger and older generations. Thematic analysis also provides space for researchers to find patterns that can explain the differences and similarities in attitudes of religious moderation between the two generations. This process involves several stages, including familiarization with the data, coding, and defining the theme.

To improve the validity and reliability of the study, the researchers also triangulated the data sources by collecting additional information from the relevant literature on religious moderation.[5] This aims to enrich the analysis and provide a broader context to the findings obtained from the interviews. Through this triangulation, researchers can ensure that research results do not only rely on one data source, but are also supported by evidence from other credible sources.

Finally, research ethics is also an important concern in this study. The researcher ensured that all respondents provided informed consent before participating in interviews and discussions.[6] In addition, the researcher also maintains the confidentiality of the respondents' identities and the information provided during the research process. This aims to create a comfortable atmosphere for respondents and ensure that the data obtained is valid and trustworthy.

Discussion

The Younger Generation's View of Religious Moderation Compared to the Older Generation's View

The view of religious moderation between the younger and older generations shows significant differences, influenced by social context, life experiences, and access to information. The younger generation, who were born and raised in the digital age, tend to have a broader understanding of the concept of religious moderation. They are exposed to a wide range of information through social media, which allows them to explore a wide range of perspectives and religious practices from different backgrounds. For example, many young generations view religious moderation as a necessity to create harmony in a pluralistic society, as well as as a response to the growing issues of extremism.[7]

On the other hand, the views of the older generation on religious moderation are often more influenced by traditions and teachings passed down from previous generations. Older generations tend to rely on more conventional understandings and may have more rigid views on religious practices. They often have a greater appreciation for traditional values and long-standing norms, which can limit their flexibility in understanding religious moderation in a broader context. This creates a gap between the more progressive young generation and the older generation who are more conservative in terms of religious interpretation and practice.

This difference is also seen in the way the two generations interact with the religion and beliefs of others. The younger generation is more open to interreligious dialogue and has a tendency to support pluralism. They understand that religious moderation is not just about tolerance, but also about mutual respect and learning from differences. On the other hand, older generations may be more inclined to maintain more exclusive views, which can lead to difficulties in establishing harmonious relationships with other groups.

In addition, factors of education and life experience also play an important role in shaping views on religious moderation. The younger generation, who generally have better access to formal education and diverse information, are better able to develop critical attitudes towards religious and social issues. On the other hand, older generations who may be less exposed to formal education and contemporary discourses on religion may have a more limited understanding. This shows that education is one of the keys in shaping attitudes of religious moderation, which differs between these two generations.

Overall, the comparison of views on religious moderation between the younger and older generations reflects complex social dynamics. By understanding the perspectives of each

generation, we can find common ground that can help promote more inclusive and constructive religious moderation in society.[8]

The view of religious moderation between the younger and older generations is influenced by a variety of factors, including social context, education, life experiences, and media influence. Each of these factors makes a significant contribution to how each generation understands and implements the values of moderation in their religious practices.

The social context in which a person grows and lives greatly influences their views on religious moderation. The younger generation, who were born and raised in the era of globalization, are often exposed to a diverse range of different cultures and thoughts.[9] They tend to be more open to pluralism and interreligious dialogue, which shapes their understanding of the importance of moderation in maintaining social harmony. In contrast, older generations, who may have grown up in a more homogeneous society, often have more traditional and exclusive views. These different social environments led to significant differences in the way each generation viewed religious moderation.

Education plays a key role in shaping the generation's view of religious moderation. Young people generally have better access to formal education and discussion of religious issues in schools and colleges. They are taught to think critically and be open to various views. On the other hand, older generations may not get the same education in the context of religious moderation, so their understanding is more based on existing traditions and teachings. This creates a gap in understanding and acceptance of religious moderation between the two generations.

The digital age has also brought major changes in the way information is conveyed and received. Young people have greater access to information through social media and other online platforms, which allows them to explore different perspectives on religious moderation. On the other hand, older generations may be more reliant on traditional media and more limited information. These differences in media consumption can affect the way each generation understands and applies the values of moderation in daily life.

Different life experiences also contribute to views on religious moderation. Younger generations who frequently interact with people from different religious and cultural backgrounds tend to better understand the importance of tolerance and moderation.[10] Meanwhile, older generations, who may have more homogeneous life experiences, may be less open to different views. These experiences shape attitudes and behaviors related to religious moderation.

Finally, the religious values and teachings embraced by each generation also influence their views on moderation. The younger generation who are exposed to more modern and inclusive

interpretations of religion tend to favor religious moderation more. On the other hand, older generations may be more bound by stricter traditional interpretations. These differences in religious understanding and practice can create intergenerational tensions in terms of acceptance of religious moderation.

Overall, these factors interact with each other and shape the views of the younger and older generations regarding religious moderation. Understanding these factors is essential to build a constructive dialogue between the two generations in an effort to promote religious moderation in society.

The practice of religious moderation among the younger and older generations can be seen from various aspects, including social interaction, participation in religious activities, and attitudes towards differences. Although both generations have different approaches, both strive to apply the values of moderation in their daily lives.

1. Social Interaction and Tolerance

The younger generation often shows the practice of religious moderation through more open and inclusive social interactions. They tend to hang out with friends from different religious and cultural backgrounds, which helps them understand and appreciate differences. Through activities such as interfaith discussions, seminars, and community events, young people can share experiences and perspectives, leading to increased tolerance. For example, many youth organizations are active in holding interfaith dialogues to build mutual understanding.

On the other hand, older generations are usually more limited in social interaction, but they still try to show tolerance in their environment. They often promote traditional values that teach the importance of respecting others, although they may not be as active as the younger generation in creating forum-dialogues. This practice can be seen in social activities such as attending religious events in other communities or participating in cultural celebrations involving different religions, albeit with a more conservative approach.

2. Participation in Religious Activities

The younger generation also shows the practice of religious moderation through participation in inclusive religious activities. Many of them are involved in community service programs involving various religions, such as social service and environmental campaigns. This activity not only strengthens the sense of togetherness among religious people, but also affirms the commitment of the younger generation to create harmony in diversity.

Meanwhile, older generations tend to engage in more traditional religious activities, such as recitations, religious holiday celebrations, and long-standing charitable activities. Nonetheless,

they are also beginning to open themselves up to participating in interfaith activities, especially if encouraged by their children or grandchildren. This practice shows that although the older generation is more conservative, they are still looking for ways to contribute to interreligious harmony.

3. Attitude towards Differences

The attitude towards differences also reflects the practice of religious moderation in daily life. The younger generation is more likely to adopt an attitude that prioritizes dialogue and compromise in the face of differences. They believe that differences are not barriers, but rather a force that can enrich life experiences. For example, many young generations are active in social movements that promote tolerance and human rights, which include all religions.

On the other hand, the older generation often has a more cautious attitude in dealing with differences. Although they teach the importance of respecting others, they may be more inclined to keep their distance from groups that are perceived as different. However, along with the development of the times and interactions with the younger generation, some members of the older generation began to change their attitudes and sought to be more accepting of differences.

Overall, the practice of religious moderation carried out by the younger and older generations reflects complex and interdependent dynamics. Each generation has a unique way of applying the values of moderation, which can complement and enrich religious life in society.

The Role of Technology in Influencing Religious Moderation Attitudes in the Younger Generation Compared to the Older Generation

Technology, especially social media, has a great influence in shaping attitudes of religious moderation in the younger generation. With broad access to various views and sources of information, the younger generation is more open to diverse interpretations of religion, social media allows the younger generation to explore the moderate perspectives of various religious figures, so that they are better able to develop an inclusive and tolerant understanding of religious differences. Exposure to these views allows them to place religious values in a broader context and relevant to social life.

In addition, technology increases the ability of the younger generation to think critically in responding to religious teachings. Platforms such as blogs, podcasts, and online videos provide space for more in-depth religious discussions, and this influences them to go beyond simply dogmatically following teachings. According to Aziz, the younger generation is more interested in a critical and analytical approach in understanding religion because of the amount of information

available digitally. This critical attitude makes them more selective in accepting religious views, so that religious moderation is easier to apply in daily life.[11]

Meanwhile, the older generation generally experiences limitations in accessing and using digital technology. This affects the way they view religious moderation, which is often still based on conservative views and information from traditional sources. Older generations tend to rely on information from local religious leaders or religious studies they are familiar with, so they are less exposed to the more moderate religious views that are widely available on the internet.

The older generation also often faces digital literacy barriers, which make it difficult for them to use technology to enrich religious understanding. This lack of digital literacy makes them more vulnerable to misinformation or non-moderate religious content, as they find it difficult to verify the information they find. The low digital literacy of the older generation limits them in accessing more moderate religious views, which are widely conveyed by progressive religious leaders through digital platforms.

Technology is also a factor that causes misunderstandings between generations in terms of religious moderation. The younger generation who are familiar with open religious views is often considered too liberal by the older generation who still hold conservative views. This phenomenon is explained that the difference in the use of technology between the two generations often causes conflicts because religious views are considered too flexible by the older generation, while the younger generation considers it part of moderation.

1. Challenges faced by various generations in implementing religious moderation

The younger generation often faces challenges in implementing religious moderation, especially because of the influence of social media that reinforces extreme views. In this case, social media is a space that facilitates the spread of extreme or radical ideologies, which can shape the perception of the younger generation towards religion. This phenomenon is explained that exposure to social media often causes confusion in understanding the concept of moderation, especially for those who do not have a strong understanding of religion. This is a challenge for the younger generation in distinguishing moderate religious teachings from extreme views that are widely spread in the media.

The younger generation in general is more open to diversity, but this openness also brings its own challenges. In a pluralistic environment, young people are often confronted with different views of religion, so they have to balance openness and their own religious identity. This openness sometimes leads to identity conflicts, where the younger generation has difficulty expressing moderate attitudes without appearing compromising on their religious values.

For the older generation, the biggest challenge in implementing religious moderation is to maintain traditional religious values in the midst of the progress of the times and social development. Older generations often have a more conservative understanding of religion and stick to inherited teachings, making it difficult to adapt to the new values that emerge as social developments develop. As explained, the older generation sometimes feels threatened by more inclusive and open religious views, which is often seen as a form of weakening of religious values.

The older generation faces difficulties in utilizing digital technology as a means to deepen the understanding of moderate religion. They tend to be less exposed to information from various sources on the internet, so their religious interpretations tend to be static and limited to traditional sources. Older generations tend to be reluctant to use digital media due to limited access and digital literacy, which ultimately narrows their understanding of religious moderation.

Both the younger and older generations often face social pressure in implementing religious moderation. This pressure arises from groups with extreme views that do not accept a moderate attitude. Social pressure from the surrounding environment often makes individuals, both young and old, feel reluctant to express a moderate attitude for fear of being considered less obedient by their religious community.

Conclusion

This study shows that there are differences in attitudes of religious moderation between generations. The younger generation is more inclusive, tolerant, and open to differences, which is largely influenced by interfaith interactions on social media. In contrast, older generations tend to maintain more conservative views, both from a religious perspective and the needs of life.

Comparative studies of religious moderation between the younger generation and the older generation show that both have unique characteristics and challenges. The younger generation, with an innovative spirit and access to information, can become agents of change that encourage tolerance and understanding between religious communities. Meanwhile, the older generation has important experience and wisdom to be used as a foundation in efforts to strengthen religious moderation. It is important to build bridges between generations and create an inclusive space for dialogue so that the values of moderation can be implemented in society. Overall, this collaboration is indispensable to build a more tolerant and moderate society. This joint effort is expected to produce positive synergy in facing diversity challenges in the future.

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