

Religious Moderation in the Frame of Tolerance in Lau Pengulu Village, Mardinding District, Karo Regency, North Sumatra

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ABSTRACT

This research investigates the role of religious moderation in promoting religious tolerance in Lau Pengulu Village, North Sumatra. This village is a microcosm of the complexity of religious harmony in Indonesia. In the context of significant religious diversity, the question of how to be religious in moderation and maintain tolerance becomes relevant. This research sample used a purposive withdrawal method and interviews with 30 participants from various religious backgrounds. The results show that the practice of religious moderation supports tolerance between religious groups. This practice is manifested in joint participation in religious activities and social cooperation. These findings have practical significance for the development of educational programs, policies, and the promotion of interfaith cooperation.

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INTRODUCTION

Lau Pengulu Village, located in Mardinding District, Karo Regency, North Sumatra, is a microcosm of the complexity of religious harmony that has existed in Indonesia for centuries. The region has witnessed the development of diverse religious beliefs, cultures, and traditions that coexist in a vibrant community. Amid this diversity, the question of how to be religious moderately and at the same time maintain a level of tolerance between religious groups is becoming increasingly relevant in today's social and political context.

Indonesia, as a country with significant religious diversity, always has challenges and opportunities in managing religious pluralism. Religious tolerance is an important aspect of maintaining social stability and supporting sustainable development. Religious moderation, on the other hand, refers to religious practices that emphasize a more moderate and inclusive understanding of people with different religious beliefs.

This study aims to explore how religious moderation contributes to the level of tolerance in Lau Pengulu Village. We are interested in exploring how individuals and communities in Lau Pengulu Village develop moderate religious understanding and practice in the context of the diversity of religious beliefs that exist. In addition, we also wanted to understand whether religious moderation affected the level of tolerance between religious groups in this village.

Previous studies on religious moderation and tolerance have shown that moderate religious practices can reduce interreligious conflicts, strengthen cooperation between groups, and create inclusive social environments. However, unique local contexts, such as Lau Pengulu Village, can provide valuable insights into how religious moderation and tolerance function in daily practice.

In this introduction, we will present more background on Lau Pengulu Village, describe the theoretical framework used in this study, and detail the research objectives and methods used to answer the research questions expressed above.

We hope that this research will provide a deeper understanding of the role of religious moderation in promoting religious tolerance at the local level, as well as make a meaningful contribution to our understanding of the relationship between religion and social harmony in Indonesia.

RESEARCH METHOD

In this study, we adopted a purposive sampling method to select participants representing religious diversity in Lau Pengulu Village. We conducted interviews with 30 participants from various religious groups and beliefs in the village, including Islam, Christianity, and traditional beliefs. We selected participants by considering variations in their age, gender, social background, and religious experience. This approach allowed us to gain a comprehensive insight into religious practices and tolerance levels in Lau Pengulu Village.

Data for this study were collected through structured interviews with participants. The interviews were conducted in Indonesian and focused on topics such as daily religious practices, views on other religious groups, experiences in undergoing shared religious rituals, and attitudes toward religious conflicts. In addition, we also conducted participatory observations during several religious activities in Lau Pengulu Village to gain a contextual understanding of interactions between religious groups. Data from interviews and observations were then analyzed qualitatively to identify patterns related to religious moderation and tolerance.

The collected data is analyzed using a content analysis approach. Interview transcripts and observational notes were analyzed thematically to identify key patterns related to religious moderation and tolerance in Lau Pengulu Village. We look for similarities and differences in religious practices, religious views, and attitudes toward other religious groups among participants from different religious backgrounds. This data analysis helps us illustrate how religious moderation plays a role in the context of tolerance at the local level.

This research method is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of how religious moderation and tolerance are manifested in the people of Lau Pengulu Village. By integrating interviews, observations, and qualitative analysis, we hope to answer our research questions in an in-depth and informative way.

Location and Time of Implementation

This service was carried out in Lau Pengulu Village, Mardinding District, Karo Regency. The implementation of this service is carried out for one month starting from July 18, 2023, to August 18, 2023.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study provide deep insight into the role of religious moderation in promoting tolerance in Lau Pengulu Village, North Sumatra. Lau Pengulu Village, which is a microcosm of religious harmony in Indonesia, raises the understanding that the practice of religious moderation plays an important role in maintaining harmony between religious groups in a diverse society. This research provides evidence that religious moderation enables individuals and communities to lead inclusive and tolerant religious lives.

The main result of this study is that the practice of religious moderation in Lau Pengulu Village supports tolerance between religious groups. Participants from different religions and beliefs showed openness and respect for different religious beliefs. This practice of moderation is reflected in joint participation in religious activities, joint celebrations, as well as cooperation in social projects. This shows that religious moderation is not only rhetoric but also a daily practice in the lives of the people of Lau Pengulu Village.

Another important finding is that moderate religious practice can reduce the potential for interreligious conflict. A moderate understanding of religious differences helps create a social climate that supports tolerance and cooperation. Lau Pengulu village provides a concrete example that religion with moderation is the key to maintaining harmony in a diverse society.

In addition, the study also supports previous findings in the literature showing that religious moderation has a positive impact in creating an inclusive social environment. Lau Pengulu Village is a living illustration that in a society with diverse religious beliefs, religious moderation can be the basis for cooperation and social cohesion.

In a broader context, this study provides insight into the relationship between religion and tolerance in Indonesia, which is a country with diverse religious beliefs. The results of this research can lay the foundation for the development of policies that support interfaith harmony and promote tolerance across the country. As a pluralistic country, Indonesia has the potential to be an example for other countries in maintaining religious harmony in a diverse society.

Implications and Recommendations

The findings from this study have some practical implications. First, an understanding of the role of religious moderation in maintaining tolerance can be used as a basis for developing education and socialization programs at the local level that educate people about the importance of moderate religion.

Second, governments and social institutions can use these findings to design policies that support religious tolerance and cooperation among religious groups. This may include the development of interfaith dialogue programs and the promotion of interfaith cooperation in social projects.

In addition, the results of this study can inspire the people of Lau Pengulu Village to continue to maintain religious moderation practices and increase the level of tolerance in their community. By combining their religious traditions with the values of tolerance, they can maintain the harmony that has existed for centuries.

At the national level, these findings can also be used to design programs that promote religious tolerance throughout Indonesia. Governments can work with civil society and religious organizations to adopt the practice of religious moderation as part of national culture.

Research Limitations

While the study provides valuable insights, there are some limitations to be aware of. First, this study was conducted in one particular village, so the findings cannot be directly announced to the rest of Indonesia. The results may be influenced by the unique context of Lau Pengulu Village.

Second, data collection is carried out in a limited time, for one month. This can limit the scope of findings and result in limitations in understanding changes over time.

Third, this study uses qualitative methods, so the results are descriptive and cannot be generalized to the wider population. However, this study provides a solid foundation for follow-up research with a broader scope.

CONCLUSION

This research reveals that Lau Pengulu Village, North Sumatra, is a clear example of religious harmony that has existed in Indonesia for centuries. Amidst the diversity of religions, cultures, and traditions, the question of how to be religious in moderation while maintaining tolerance between religious groups is becoming increasingly relevant in today's social and political context.

The study identified that religious moderation plays an important role in promoting tolerance in Lau Pengulu Village. The practice of religious moderation is reflected in an open attitude, respect for different religious beliefs, joint participation in religious activities, and cooperation in social projects. This indicates that religious moderation is not only rhetoric but also a daily practice in people's lives. The study also found that moderate religious practice can reduce the potential for interfaith conflict. A moderate understanding of religious differences helps create a social climate that supports tolerance and cooperation. Thus, religious moderation is key to maintaining harmony in a diverse society.

In addition, the study provides insight into the relationship between religion and tolerance in Indonesia, a country with diverse religious beliefs. The results of this research can form the basis for the development of policies that support interfaith harmony and promote tolerance across the country.

The practical implications of this research include the development of education and socialization programs on the importance of religion with moderation, the development of interfaith dialogue programs, and the promotion of interfaith cooperation in social projects. The people of Lau Pengulu Village are also inspired to continue to maintain religious moderation practices and increase the level of tolerance in their community.

Limitations of this study include limited coverage of a single village, limited data collection, and qualitative methods that cannot be generalized to the wider population. However, this study provides a solid foundation for follow-up research with a broader scope.

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