

How Does Religious Pluralism Affect Islamic Education in a Multicultural Society?

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Abstract:

The purpose of this study is to address the problems of religious diversity and foster unity in a multicultural society. This study aims to investigate successful Islamic religious education methodologies. By gathering information from a variety of textual sources, including books, scientific journals, articles, research reports, and other trustworthy sources that are pertinent to the research topic, the research methodology employed is library research. According to the study's findings and conclusions, it's critical to create inclusive curricula and teaching strategies, bolster digital literacy, instill moderate values, work with other educational institutions, incorporate universal values like justice and humanity, and enhance teachers' multicultural competency. Another crucial component of Islamic religious education is sensitivity to gender and equality issues. In a multicultural culture, this strategy can aid in fostering an accepting and tolerant perspective. To put these techniques into practice, it is suggested that support from the government and educational institutions be obtained. The cultivation of multicultural competence and training for Islamic religious education instructors is of utmost importance.

Keywords:

Tolerance, Multicultural Society, Religious Pluralism, and Islamic Education.



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INTRODUCTION

The formation of pupils' religious understanding and character is greatly influenced by Islamic religious education. Significant obstacles face Islamic religious education, in addition to the dynamics of a society that is becoming more and more pluralistic. Educating people of other religions about the virtues of tolerance, respect for one another, and peaceful cohabitation is one of the biggest problems. This illustrates how crucial Islamic religious education is for fostering an awareness of the value of tolerating differences and upholding harmony among religious varieties, in addition to serving as a platform for enhancing comprehension of Islamic teachings. Islamic religious education can positively support initiatives to create harmony within and across religious communities in a pluralistic society by enhancing understanding of universal values like tolerance and respect for one another. In light of this, the topic of how to integrate religious instruction with these universal principles is crucial when discussing Islamic religious education in contemporary day

(Asrori, 2022).

The propensity of Islamic religious education to uphold exclusivism and claims to ultimate truth is a serious obstacle. Azra emphasizes how this viewpoint may make it more difficult for people of different religions to communicate and live in harmony with one another (Mubin & Aryanto, 2022). This may lead to the development of limited perspectives and an inability to recognize the multiplicity of viewpoints. As such, curricula and instructional strategies for Islamic religious education must have a more inclusive stance. Islamic religious education must uphold the principles of pluralism and encourage a more comprehensive awareness of the diversity of faiths to meet these problems (Sugiarto, 2023). Integrating resources that incorporate knowledge of many religious traditions and philosophical stances is one action that can be done. Students will be better equipped to comprehend other points of view and have an open mind toward differences as a result.

Islamic religious education must be capable of addressing contemporary issues like radicalism and intolerance, which might jeopardize religious concord, in addition to disseminating religious principles. This makes it essential to create a curriculum and instructional strategies that can foster interfaith communication and impart moderate, anti-violent ideals. This is consistent with a study by Fahri that highlights the significance of incorporating these principles within Islamic religious instruction (Al Fahri, 2023). In addition, Islamic religious education must advance by including global principles like humanity, justice, and peace into its curriculum in order to address the complexity of religious plurality in a multicultural society. With the help of this method, students can comprehend Islam not just from a normative standpoint but also in a contextualized and relevant way that is relevant to the realities of a varied society. According to research by Solikhah, this strategy offers a strong basis for the development of an all-encompassing and inclusive view of Islam in a diverse social setting (Solikhah et al., 2021).

Islamic religious education can serve as a platform for the development of inclusive understanding and promote tolerance in a varied community by embracing an approach that incorporates moderate, nonviolent, and universal ideals like humanity and justice (Abidin et al., 2023; Tunggal et al., 2023). It is intended that by using this method, students would be able to develop a thorough grasp of Islam that will not only apply to their social environment but also be able to improve interreligious harmony and peace. Islamic religious education is therefore strategically important for creating a peaceful society founded on justice and humanity. The active participation of society as a whole is vital in Islamic religious education as a means of addressing the difficulties of religious pluralism that are dominating multicultural cultures. According to Risa, collaborations with a range of community organizations, religious leaders, and traditional authorities are crucial for fostering a greater awareness and respect for the ideals of diversity in daily life (Risa et al., 2024). Islamic religious education has the potential to establish a learning environment that is inclusive and pertinent to current social realities by incorporating these many stakeholders.

However, regular review and modification of the curriculum and teaching strategies are required to guarantee the applicability and efficacy of Islamic religious education in addressing the difficulties posed by religious diversity. The community, experts, and educators working in the field must all contribute to the evaluation (Rohimin & Nurlalili, 2023). Thus, in the face of more

complicated religious plurality, Islamic religious education can keep evolving in line with social dynamics and societal requirements in order to preserve harmony within and between religious communities. To sum up, Islamic religious education plays a significant part in producing inclusive and pluralistic citizens. How is the Impact of Religious Pluralism on Islamic Education in a Multicultural Society? With a different approach to gender issues and adjustments to social and cultural transformation, Islamic religious education is expected to provide a positive influence in overcoming the challenges of religious plurality and advancing social justice in a multicultural society.

METHOD

This article's research strategy makes use of library research, a data gathering technique that involves reading through and evaluating a variety of written materials, both printed and electronic, in order to gather pertinent information on the research topic (Sugiyono, 2018). The process of gathering data involves looking for and compiling information from a variety of sources, including books, articles, research reports, theses, dissertations, and other credible sources that are pertinent to the subject of discussion Sujawerni (2014) The primary goals of the literature review in this work are to gather relevant data and information for the research topic, develop a solid theoretical framework for the study, comprehend the problem under investigation more thoroughly, summarize, assess, and identify research gaps that warrant additional investigation. As a result, the proportions and concepts on this page can be supported by the literature gathered from numerous references.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We'll look at a few Islamic approaches to religious education in this post that can improve tolerance, respect for one another, and understanding amongst faiths. We shall show how Islamic religious education may be a potent instrument in accepting pluralism in a multicultural society, from teacher and community engagement to the use of technology to create spaces for dialogue.

In a multicultural culture, Islamic religious education plays a critical role in fostering an accepting and tolerant mindset. How to reconcile principles like tolerance, openness, and peaceful cohabitation between followers of other religions is one of the major issues that need to be addressed (T. N. Hidayati et al., 2024). This highlights the value of Islamic religious education as a way to foster tolerance and diversity awareness as well as a way to enrich Islamic teachings. The creation of an inclusive curriculum, inclusive teaching strategies, and the promotion of pluralistic principles are all necessary to meet this problem (Sasmita, 2023). Integrating content that encompasses knowledge of the diverse customs and intellectual stances of other religions is one action that can be done. As a result, students can have a more comprehensive understanding and respect for the variety of viewpoints.

Additionally, fostering cross-cultural understanding requires the use of interactive and participatory learning strategies. Collaboration and communication can be facilitated by techniques including case studies, group discussions, and cooperative projects involving students from various religious and cultural backgrounds (Jakaria Umro, 2023). This method not only improves comprehension of Islam but also fosters tolerance and cross-cultural communication abilities that are

necessary in a pluralistic society.

Islamic religious education needs to improve students' digital literacy to meet the problems of globalization and the advancement of the digital technology era (Abidin, 2020; Indrawan et al., 2024; Sari & Rochbani, 2024). To respond to the proliferation of content that could incite extremism or bigotry, having enough digital literacy is essential (Misbah et al., 2021). Students must possess the necessary skills to discern reliable information and uphold the principles of harmony and peace. Islamic religious education must create suitable curricula and teaching strategies to foster interfaith understanding and develop moderate and nonviolent ideals (Alfikri & Rizki, 2024). This inclusive and moderate approach is crucial in stopping the rise of radical beliefs that could jeopardize religious unity.

As part of the endeavor to advance peace and concord, cooperation between Islamic and other educational establishments is also required (Abidin et al., 2023; Nisak et al., 2024; Rochbani, 2024; Rochbani & Nurdianingsih, 2023). An atmosphere that fosters intercultural and interfaith conversation can be produced by student exchanges and collaborative activities between educational institutions (Munawaroh & Wakila, 2023). Through increased outreach and more efficient dissemination of the message of peace and tolerance in a multicultural society growing in complexity, Islamic religious education can reach a wider audience.

Integrating global values like humanity, justice, and peace into the Islamic religious education curriculum is a crucial part of addressing religious pluralism (N. Hidayati & Windari, 2024). With the help of this method, students are able to comprehend Islamic teachings not just from a normative standpoint but also in a contextualized and applicable manner to the realities of many communities. Therefore, Islamic religious education can serve as a strong basis for the development of an all-encompassing and inclusive understanding. To foster a respectful learning environment where students respect one another and value variety, Islamic religious education teachers play a critical role (Fadhilla & Marsetyo, 2023). Thus, to comprehend and value cultural differences and incorporate these values into the teaching and learning process, educators must possess the necessary multicultural competencies.

Social media and information technology are also powerful tools for promoting messages of harmony, tolerance, and peace between religious groups (Mubin & Aryanto, 2022). These messages can spread to a larger audience and raise awareness of the value of peaceful cooperation in the midst of societal diversity, thanks to the media. The efficiency of promoting the virtues of harmony can be increased in Islamic religious education through the combination of social media and information technology. Islamic religious education requires the active participation of society at large to effectively address the issues posed by religious plurality (Dannur, 2024). Relationships with other religious leaders, traditional authorities, and community organizations can help people better appreciate and value variety in daily life. Increased community involvement will result in a learning environment that is inclusive and pertinent to current social realities.

Curricula and instructional strategies in Islamic religious education must consider gender and equality concerns. Fahri emphasized this as an essential first step in addressing the problems posed

by religious diversity in a multicultural society. Overcoming prejudice and prejudices that may surface in relationships between religious communities is made possible by having a thorough grasp of gender equality in the context of religion and culture (Al Fahri, 2023). Islamic religious education can become more inclusive and significantly contribute to the advancement of human rights in general by introducing a gender perspective into the curriculum and teaching strategies (Abidin et al., 2023). Greater participation in a multicultural community can also be encouraged by an approach to Islamic religious education that takes gender issues into consideration.

The principles of gender equality can help students better appreciate the significance of upholding everyone's rights, regardless of gender or background, in terms of culture or religion. According to Tang, Islamic religious education thus serves to both promote and reinforce religious identity as well as contribute positively to the creation of a just and inclusive community for all inhabitants (Tang et al., 2024). Thus, in an increasingly complex multicultural society, Islamic religious education becomes more pertinent in addressing the issues of religious plurality.

Islamic religious education must also adjust to the dynamics of social and cultural growth (Firdaus, 2024). This entails adapting to the needs and goals of various communities as well as introducing content that is current with the times. Therefore, Islamic religious education serves as a voice for social justice and equality in a varied society, in addition to acting as a defender of traditional values. Collaboration with other educational institutions, both formal and informal, is crucial to enhancing the efficacy of Islamic religious education in addressing the issues of religious diversity (Assayuthi, 2020; Harsyah, 2023). Tolerance and peace are principles that can be promoted through collaborative projects, student exchanges, or events involving students from different religious and cultural backgrounds. With this cooperation, Islamic religious education will be better able to spread the word about the value of interfaith harmony in a multicultural society.

The creation of an inclusive curriculum and instructional strategies must also take into account the unique requirements of pupils, such as those with impairments or from minority backgrounds (Faruk et al., 2023; Nurlaili et al., 2023). It is possible to establish a learning environment that celebrates variety and makes sure that no student is left out of the learning process by taking a more inclusive approach. This will assist in eliminating discrimination and promoting equality in Islamic religious education.

Research on Islamic religious education techniques is crucial for addressing the difficulties posed by religious plurality in a multicultural society. As emphasized by periodic evaluation and change of the curriculum and instructional strategies are essential tasks that must be completed. It is imperative that many stakeholders, including education practitioners, experts, and the community, are engaged in the review process to ensure the continued relevance and efficacy of Islamic religious education in addressing the dynamically changing social landscape.

Islamic religious education is strategically important in creating inclusive and pluralistic individuals in the setting of a society that is becoming more complex by the day. Supriyandi emphasizes that fulfilling these demands requires the establishment of a responsive curriculum and interactive learning approaches (Hadiansah et al., 2024; Supriyandi et al., 2024). Therefore, Islamic

religious education can help counteract the negative effects of religious diversity while advancing social justice and equality in a multicultural society.

CONCLUSION

The strategies' conclusion highlights the significance of Islamic religious education in fostering a tolerant and inclusive perspective in a heterogeneous society that is becoming more complex. Developing an inclusive curriculum and teaching strategies, enhancing digital literacy, and establishing moderate values are all crucial elements in developing a learning environment that discourages radicalism and encourages communication between imams. Enhancing religious tolerance and peace is also greatly aided by collaboration with other educational establishments. It is also necessary to consistently work toward integrating universal principles like justice and humanity and enhancing instructors' multicultural competency. Islamic religious education places a strong emphasis on gender equality and sensitivity to these concerns to combat prejudice and preconceptions that may surface in interactions between religious communities.

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