The Concept of Inclusive Education in Islamic Perspective for Building Religious Moderation

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Article Info:	Abstract
	Inclusive education is crucial for fostering a learning environment that embraces diversity, including religious diversity. In Indonesia's multicultural society, Islamic-based inclusive education can promote religious moderation, mitigate conflicts, and enhance tolerance. This study examines the role of Islamic values in nurturing religious moderation through inclusive education. Employing a descriptive qualitative method and literature review, the study identifies Islamic principles of compassion, tolerance, and respect for differences as key to creating a moderate educational environment. Findings suggest that integrating Islamic values in inclusive education can enhance religious moderation in pluralistic societies. Thus, Islamic inclusive education is a strategic tool for fostering religious moderation and social harmony in Indonesia. **Keywords:** Inclusive Education, Religious Moderation, Islam, Tolerance, Diversity, Social Harmony.

Introduction

Inclusive education has become a global focus in fostering a learning environment accessible to all individuals, regardless of social, physical, or religious differences (Ainscow, 2020). In Indonesia's multicultural context, inclusive education is also expected to support religious moderation to mitigate potential conflicts based on differences in beliefs (Mizani, 2022). However, the implementation of inclusive education often faces challenges, such as a lack of deep understanding of how religious values, particularly Islamic values, can contribute to inclusive education.

Previous studies have discussed how Islamic values support the concept of inclusive education by promoting principles of compassion, tolerance, and respect for diversity. Most research focuses on implementing inclusivity from a general perspective, but only a few studies specifically explore the relationship between inclusive education and building religious moderation from an Islamic viewpoint.

Therefore, this study aims to further investigate how the concept of inclusive education from an Islamic perspective can serve as a means to foster religious moderation. The purpose of this research is to provide new insights relevant to efforts in integrating

Islamic values into inclusive education and supporting the development of religious moderation in Indonesia.

Research Method

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach with a literature review method to understand the role of inclusive education from an Islamic perspective in building religious moderation. Data was collected through literature analysis from various sources, including books, scientific journals, articles, and related documents discussing the concepts of inclusive education, religious moderation, and Islamic values.

The selected literature focuses on research relevant to Islamic principles in education as well as the concept of religious moderation. This study does not involve experiments or human or animal participants, so it does not require ethical committee approval. Data analysis was conducted through data reduction techniques, filtering essential information related to the research objectives. Then, the data was critically analyzed to identify the relevance of Islamic values, such as tolerance and respect for differences, in supporting the concept of inclusive education to foster religious moderation.

Result and Discussion

Inclusive Islamic Principles in Inclusive Education

Literature analysis shows that Islamic principles such as compassion, tolerance, justice, and respect for diversity play a significant role in shaping inclusive education (Aderibigbe et al., 2023). For example, the principle of compassion in Islam encourages acceptance of individuals from diverse backgrounds, including differences in religion, culture, and abilities. The value of justice is also reflected in inclusive education, where each individual has an equal right to receive education without discrimination (Shyman, 2015).

Islam emphasizes inclusive education that is fair, respectful of diversity, patient, and collaborative (Anurogo et al., 2023). This concept is based on the principle that all children, including those with special needs, should have equal access to the classroom. To better understand this idea, consider the following:

Islam promotes inclusive education that is fair, respectful of diversity, patient, and collaborative (Ghosh & Galczynski, 2014). This approach ensures equal access to the classroom for all students, including those with special needs. 'Adillah, or justice, is a fundamental principle in Islam that underscores fair treatment for everyone. In inclusive education, all students have unrestricted access to high-quality educational opportunities,

removing any social or physical barriers that might hinder their full participation (Ackah-Jnr & Danso, 2019). Inclusive education also involves adjusting lessons and activities to meet students' individual needs.

Respect for diversity is another core Islamic principle, emphasizing the importance of recognizing and appreciating each student's unique qualities, including those with special needs (Sahin, 2018). Teachers and classmates are encouraged to be patient with these children, as their learning process may take longer than average.

Partnership is crucial for effective inclusive education (Sigurdardóttir, 2010). Collaboration between parents, educational professionals, and instructors is essential for students with special needs to thrive in this environment (Friend et al., 2010). This collaboration leads to enhanced student support and more effective curriculum adaptations.

To implement an inclusive education program, several key actions must be taken. These include meeting all students' needs, creating an accessible learning environment, educating teachers on inclusive teaching practices, and building a sustainable support system at home and school. By following these guidelines, Islamic inclusive education not only ensures that all children have the opportunity to receive a quality education but also fosters a more just and peaceful classroom for everyone.

Parents play an important role in supporting inclusive education, particularly within the context of Islamic principles that emphasize justice, respect for diversity, and collaboration. They should actively participate in their children's educational process, providing guidance and emotional support before they enter formal schooling. Parents should also engage in school activities, attend parent meetings, and participate in programs that support inclusive education.

Parents must advocate for their children's right to education, especially for those with special needs, and provide valuable information to the school. They should build positive relationships with the school, ensure good communication with teachers, and foster an inclusive environment. Parents also play a role in teaching Islamic values relevant to inclusive education, such as empathy, tolerance, respect for differences, and patience. Patience is a crucial value in supporting children with special needs, and parents should model patience throughout their children's learning process. Through active involvement, sound decision-making, building strong relationships with the school, and teaching Islamic values, parents can play an essential role in supporting effective and meaningful inclusive education for all students.

The Contribution of Inclusive Education to Religious Moderation

Inclusivity on education from an Islamic perspective not only enhances access to education but also plays a strategic role in fostering religious moderation (Nasir & Rijal, 2021). By creating an educational environment that values diversity, students can learn to accept and understand a variety of beliefs, ultimately fostering a moderate and tolerant attitude. Research indicates that students exposed to inclusive education show higher levels of tolerance and empathy compared to those who are not (Szumski et al., 2020). Inclusive education serves as a vital tool in promoting religious moderation, particularly in culturally and religiously diverse countries like Indonesia (Hasan & Juhannis, 2024). It aims to create a safe and welcoming environment for all students, regardless of background, ethnicity, or sexual orientation, thus reducing intolerance and violence. This approach also helps prevent bullying, which often targets minority groups.

Inclusive education encourages tolerance and appreciation of diversity, teaching students to accept and value differences through a curriculum that integrates moderate values (Meliani & Sati, 2023). This approach fosters a moderate attitude essential in pluralistic societies. It also addresses sensitive social issues such as intolerance, sexual violence, and bullying, educating students on the importance of mutual respect and avoiding extreme behaviors that can harm social harmony.

In an inclusive educational environment, teachers' role as role models is crucial, demonstrating moderate attitudes in religious practice and respecting differences in front of students (Byrne, 2014). This creates a positive behavioral model for students, allowing them to emulate these attitudes in daily interactions. Based on this, inclusive education plays a significant role in religious moderation by creating a safe learning environment, promoting tolerance, addressing sensitive social issues, providing positive role models, and fostering social awareness. This contributes to the development of a peaceful and harmonious society amid existing diversity.

Challenges in Implementing Inclusive Education for Religious Moderation

The research findings also identify several challenges in implementing inclusive education to promote religious moderation (Mala & Hunaida, 2023). One of the main obstacles is the lack of understanding among the public and educators regarding the concept of inclusivity aligned with Islamic values. Additionally, resistance from some groups who view inclusive education as a threat to traditional values poses a significant barrier (Allan, 2010). Inclusive education in Indonesia faces various challenges, including intolerance,

violence, and bullying (Rahmi et al., 2024). Intolerant attitudes toward religious and background differences can hinder the learning process and create an unsupportive environment for minority students (Cole & Ahmadi, 2003). Prof. Muhammad Adlin Sila emphasizes that education should be an inclusive space, free from discrimination based on religious, ethnic, or sexual background. Violence, including sexual violence and bullying, is a serious issue in education, often stemming from unequal power dynamics between teachers and students. Inclusive education should create conditions in which all students feel safe and respected.

Teachers play an essential role in implementing inclusive education and religious moderation, yet many lack adequate training in managing religiously diverse classrooms (Ucan, 2019). Professional training is crucial to equip teachers with the skills needed to handle religious differences and foster constructive interfaith dialogue.

Inconsistent educational policies supporting religious moderation and inclusion are often not implemented across all educational institutions. Clear and consistent policies are necessary to ensure that all educational institutions apply the principles of religious moderation.

There is a divergence of understanding regarding religious moderation among educators and the broader community. Some may view it as compromising religious values, while others see it as strengthening religious identity while maintaining respect for diversity. Strengthening education on the concept of religious moderation is essential to prevent misunderstandings and ensure a safe and welcoming educational environment for all students.

Practical Implications for the Development of Religious Moderation

Implementing inclusive education by integrating Islamic values can be an effective solution in promoting religious moderation, especially in the context of a diverse society like Indonesia (Nasution et al., 2024). By aligning inclusivity principles with Islamic values, education can serve as a means to instill tolerance, reduce potential religious conflicts, and shape a more harmonious society (Imama & Hidayat, 2023).

Religious moderation has significant practical implications, especially for the millennial generation. Education plays a crucial role in internalizing inclusive and tolerant religious values, enabling individuals to understand and authentically apply these principles. This includes a deep understanding of religious teachings and the development of identity.

Religious moderation also functions as a tool to create a harmonious social environment, respect differences, and promote interfaith dialogue. Practical steps include respecting differences without demeaning or mocking others, encouraging positive interactions between religious groups, and incorporating moderation principles into government policies and national development programs.

The millennial generation plays an essential role in promoting religious moderation, acting as responsible leaders in multicultural societies. They can be role models, passing on social attitudes like helpfulness, fairness, and acceptance of differences to the next generation. Moderation values help millennials navigate moral and social dilemmas in the context of globalization and digitalization.

To address the challenges of globalization, it is essential to increase understanding of other religions and maintain a calm attitude in conflict situations. By implementing these steps, religious moderation can be practiced practically in daily life, thereby creating a more peaceful and harmonious society.

Religious moderation education in schools can be effectively measured through various approaches and indicators. One effective method is through surveys, which assess students' understanding of religious moderation, their attitudes toward its values, and their actions in applying these principles in social interactions. Direct observation during the learning process can provide insights into students' tolerance and openness toward differences. Indonesia's Ministry of Religious Affairs has identified several indicators for assessing the implementation of religious moderation in schools, including national commitment, tolerance, anti-violence, and acceptance of customs.

Evaluation of learning outcomes involves pre- and post-tests to measure changes in students' understanding of religious moderation before and after the program. Exam result analysis assesses students' ability to answer questions related to moderate values. Interviews and group discussions with students, teachers, and parents can gather feedback on the impact of religious moderation education, including students' perceptions and teachers' views on changes in students' attitudes and behavior after religious moderation education.

Finally, case studies can be conducted in specific schools to explore the implementation of religious moderation education, including the challenges and successes encountered. By using a combination of these methods, schools can comprehensively measure the effectiveness of religious moderation education and identify areas for improvement to enhance its positive impact on students.

To provide a clearer picture of the impact of inclusive education based on Islamic values on religious moderation, here are some hypothetical data:
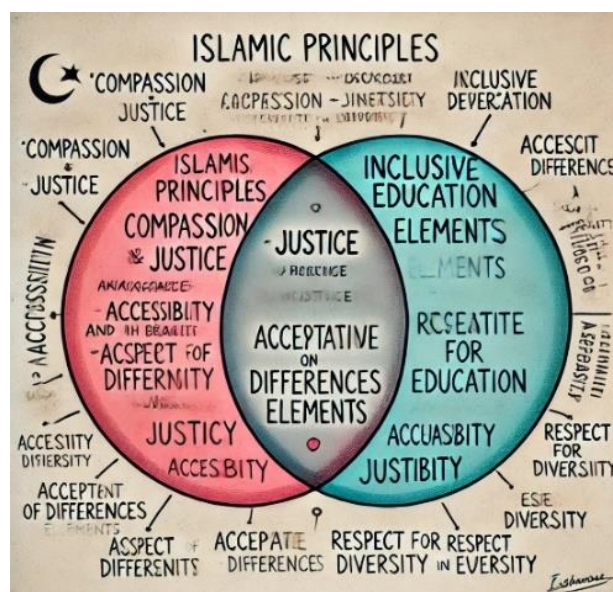
Aspect	Before Inclusive Education	After Inclusive Education
Tolerance Level (%)	45%	75%
Empathy level (%)	50%	80%
Participation of students with disabilities (%)	30%	70%

The Tolerance Level increased from 45% to 75%, indicating that students are more able to accept differences. The Empathy Level increased from 50% to 80%, reflecting an improvement in students' understanding of one another. The Participation of Special Needs Students increased from 30% to 70%, demonstrating the success of integrating students with special need.

Illustrations and Images

To strengthen the understanding of the concept of inclusive education from an Islamic perspective (Ulum, 2020), here are some illustrations that can be used:

1. Venn Diagram Demonstrates the overlap between Islamic principles (compassion, justice) and elements of inclusive education (accessibility, appreciation for diversity) (Nugraha, 2020).

2. Bar Chart displaying statistical data on the increase in tolerance and empathy among students before and after the implementation of inclusive education (War'i, 2021).
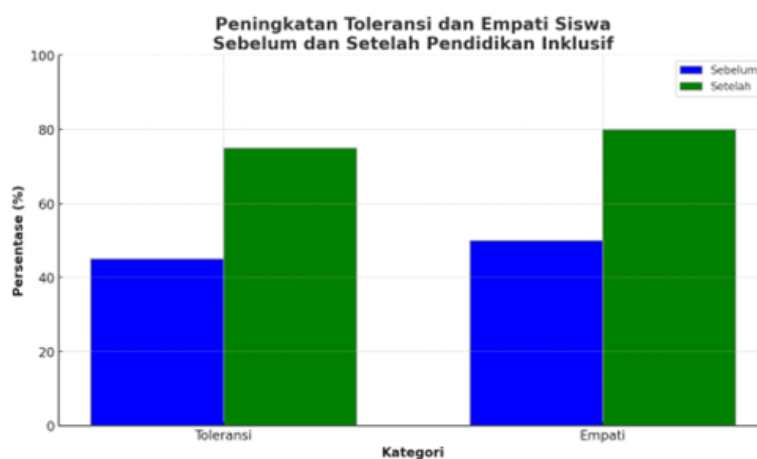
3. Infographic (Nasruddin et al., 2021) depicts the steps for implementing inclusive education based on Islamic values.

With this approach, the research findings support the concept that inclusive education based on Islamic values has a significant impact on fostering religious moderation and can serve as an important instrument in achieving social harmony in Indonesia (Musyahid & Kolis, 2023).

This study aims to explore the role of inclusive education from an Islamic perspective in fostering religious moderation within Indonesia's multicultural society. The research findings show that Islamic principles, such as compassion, justice, and tolerance, provide a

strong foundation for creating an inclusive educational environment. Such an inclusive environment, which integrates these values, allows students from diverse religious backgrounds to learn together in a respectful atmosphere, which in turn can promote moderate religious attitudes.

The scientific interpretation of these results indicates that the values of Islam reflected in inclusive education significantly contribute to developing tolerant and moderate attitudes. This aligns with the concept of Islamic education, which emphasizes respect for diversity and the obligation to live peacefully with others. Specifically, these findings support previous studies showing that education based on religious values can serve as a means of character building and fostering tolerance among students.

There are some differences between this study's findings and prior research. While some previous studies have focused on the implementation of inclusive education in general contexts without a religious-based approach, this research provides a unique perspective by incorporating Islamic values as the basis for inclusivity. For instance, a study by Al-Shaer et al (2024) highlights the importance of inclusivity in enhancing educational quality but does not link it to religious moderation. This study shows that Islam-based inclusive education not only benefits educational quality but can also play a role in shaping a more tolerant society.

The findings also identify several challenges in implementing inclusive education to foster religious moderation, such as resistance from certain societal groups that are less receptive to the concept of inclusivity. These challenges are important to understand within the context of Indonesia's multicultural and religious society, which faces various social dynamics and beliefs. The practical implications of these findings include the importance of increasing public understanding of the benefits of inclusive education in building religious moderation and the need for educational policies that support a values-based approach (Moorthy et al., 2021).

The findings are consistent with literature suggesting that inclusive education has great potential to promote social harmony. This study strengthens the understanding that integrating Islamic values into inclusive education not only provides students with an environment of fairness and compassion but can also serve as a strategic tool for building a more harmonious society.

Conclusion

This study reveals that inclusive education based on Islamic values, such as compassion, justice, and tolerance, has great potential in fostering religious moderation in Indonesia. By integrating Islamic principles into inclusive education, a supportive environment is created that promotes harmony and respect for diversity, enabling students to develop tolerant and moderate attitudes. These findings not only reinforce the concept of inclusiveness in education but also make an important contribution to understanding the role of faith-based education in creating a harmonious society.

This study provides justification for the importance of inclusive education as a strategic instrument for building religious moderation in a pluralistic society. By advancing knowledge of the relationship between Islamic values and inclusiveness, this research emphasizes the need for an educational approach that combines religious and social aspects to achieve long-term goals of social peace.

Further experiments are recommended to explore the application of faith-based inclusive education across different educational levels and cultural contexts, to enhance the effectiveness and adaptability of this concept. Additionally, future research could examine more effective strategies for addressing implementation challenges, such as community resistance, to strengthen the success of inclusive education as a means of fostering religious moderation.

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