

Artikel Info			
Received: June 13, 2024	Revised: August 26, 2024	Accepted: September 27, 2025	Published: October 20, 2025

## Strengthening Religious Moderation Based on Local Wisdom Through Islamic Religious Education in Multicultural Communities in Tanjung Pura District

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**Abstract:** This community service activity aims to strengthen religious moderation based on local wisdom through Islamic education in the multicultural community of Tanjung Pura District. The region is characterized by high ethnic and cultural diversity; therefore, an inclusive and contextual educational approach is needed. The methods used include socialization, interactive discussions, and training for religious leaders, teachers, and local residents. The results show an increased understanding among participants of the values of religious moderation, such as tolerance, balance, justice, and respect for differences. Furthermore, local wisdom values such as mutual cooperation (*gotong royong*), deliberation (*musyawarah*), and mutual respect proved to be effective instruments in strengthening social harmony and cohesion among religious communities. Through cross-community collaboration and Islamic education rooted in local culture, this activity successfully built shared awareness to maintain unity amid diversity. Thus, this program is expected to

**Abstrak:** Kegiatan Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat Ini Bertujuan Untuk Memperkuat Moderasi Beragama Berbasis Kearifan Lokal Melalui Pendidikan Agama Islam Pada Komunitas Multikultural Di Kecamatan Tanjung Pura. Wilayah Ini Memiliki Keragaman Etnis Dan Budaya Yang Tinggi Sehingga Diperlukan Pendekatan Pendidikan Yang Inklusif Dan Kontekstual. Metode Pelaksanaan Kegiatan Meliputi Sosialisasi, Diskusi Interaktif, Dan Pelatihan Bagi Tokoh Agama, Guru, Dan Masyarakat Setempat. Hasil Kegiatan Menunjukkan Peningkatan Pemahaman Peserta Terhadap Nilai-Nilai Moderasi Beragama Seperti Toleransi, Keseimbangan, Keadilan, Dan Penghargaan Terhadap Perbedaan. Selain Itu, Nilai-Nilai Kearifan Lokal Seperti Gotong Royong, Musyawarah, Dan Saling Menghormati Terbukti Dapat Menjadi Sarana Efektif Dalam Memperkuat Harmoni Sosial Dan Memperkokoh Kohesi Antarumat

serve as a model for implementing religious moderation based on local wisdom in other multicultural regions of Indonesia.

**Keywords:** Religious Moderation; Local Wisdom; Islamic Education; Multicultural; Tanjung Pura.

Beragama. Melalui Kolaborasi Lintas Komunitas Dan Pendekatan Pendidikan Islam Yang Berakar Pada Budaya Lokal, Kegiatan Ini Berhasil Membangun Kesadaran Bersama Untuk Menjaga Persatuan Di Tengah Keberagaman. Dengan Demikian, Kegiatan Ini Diharapkan Menjadi Model Penerapan Moderasi Beragama Berbasis Kearifan Lokal Di Wilayah Multikultural Lainnya Di Indonesia.

**Kata Kunci:** Moderasi Beragama; Kearifan Lokal; Pendidikan Agama Islam; Multikultural. Tanjung Pura.

### A. Introduction

Religious diversity is a wealth owned by the Indonesian nation that must be maintained and preserved. Diversity will have potential if utilized and preserved and can be a thorn if only a handful of people understand it and want to protect it. Religious diversity is a rite of passage along with beliefs and values that are recognized as diverse. But the variety of religions shows the number of people who are interested in having beliefs and worship. And religion is a blessing for every believer.(Putri and Harfiani, 2022)

Strengthening religious moderation in the Multicultural Community of Tanjung Pura District can be done through Islamic religious education by integrating local wisdom into the curriculum, teaching tolerance and respect for differences, and involving community leaders. This aims to create harmony in a multicultural society. The concept of strengthening religious moderation based on local wisdom, among others, leads to religious moderation which leads to religious attitudes and behavior with the existence of a middle way (moderate), not extreme, and upholds the values of tolerance and peace.(Rinda Fauzian *et al.*, 2021). While local wisdom itself is the

values, traditions and practices that develop in certain communities and are passed down from generation to generation, and plays an important role in creating inter-religious harmony in the archipelago (Pada, Di and Barat, 2024).

The benefits of strengthening religious moderation include preventing radicalism and intolerance so as to reduce the potential for intolerant attitudes and radicalism among the community, creating social harmony so as to help create a peaceful and harmonious environment in a multicultural community, building social cohesion so as to strengthen national unity and integrity by teaching the values of peace and cooperation. In addition to illustrating diversity, the value of religious moderation also shows messages that encourage tolerance, intercultural cooperation and peaceful conflict resolution (Effendi, Haya and Khuriyah, 2025).

Through religious moderation, it is expected to create a collective awareness to appreciate and recognize existing differences, and strengthen the value of togetherness. Religious moderation is not only a theological concept, but also a practical solution to build more harmonious inter-religious relations. The application of religious moderation is expected to reduce the potential for conflict, both horizontally between individuals and more broadly between different community groups. Thus, religious moderation can be a middle way to solve the problem of religious identity that often triggers social tension.(Details, 2025).

The purpose of community activities related to strengthening local wisdom-based religious moderation through Islamic religious education in multicultural communities in Tanjung Pura sub-district is to foster and strengthen the values of tolerance, harmony, and mutual respect between religious communities through an Islamic education approach based on local wisdom values.

Relevance to the conditions in Tanjung Pura sub-district is that Tanjung Pura sub-district is known as an area with a multicultural community consisting of various ethnicities such as Malay, Javanese, Batak and Chinese, as well as followers of Islam,

Christianity and Buddhism. This condition is both a potential and a challenge in maintaining harmony. Through strengthening religious moderation based on local wisdom, this activity helps minimize social friction due to differences in beliefs or cultures, making local values a bridge between communities, strengthening the character of a religious, tolerant and peace-loving society.

### **B. Methods of Service**

This service activity leads to a participatory approach that actively involves the community in every stage of the activity. This activity was carried out on October 1, 2025. The stages of this activity start from planning, implementation to evaluation. This approach places the community not as an object, but a subject that has an important role in developing religious moderation values according to the local context.

The activity implementation stage includes:

#### **a. Preparation stage**

Observation and social mapping, where the service team conducted an initial survey in Tanjung Pura sub-district to identify the characteristics of a multicultural society, the potential of local wisdom, and the growing religious issues.

Condiis with related parties, where communication and cooperation with religious leaders, sub-district government, Islamic Religious Education teachers and local educational institutions.

Planning activities by developing schedules, materials and extension strategies that are relevant to the conditions of the local community.

#### **b. Implementation phase**

Conducting interactive lectures, seminars and group discussions on the concept of religious moderation, tolerance and the importance of local wisdom in maintaining social harmony, the delivery of material is done with

communicative language and real examples from the life of the Tanjung Pura community.

Workshops and trainings, where PAI teachers and community leaders are trained in integrating religious moderation values into learning and social activities. In addition, there is a simulation of moderative learning based on local values (such as the culture of gotong royong, Malay customs, traditions of mutual respect between ethnicities).

Inter-community dialog, an interfaith and cultural discussion forum, is created to strengthen communication, mutual understanding and cooperation between community groups. In addition, this activity aims to foster empathy, tolerance and mutual respect.

Empowerment based on local wisdom by exploring local cultural values (such as deliberation, helping and polite customs) to be used as a medium for da'wah and Islamic religious education that is more contextual. In addition, there is the creation of educational media (leaflets, modules, short videos) that show the integration of Islamic teachings and local culture.(Hadirman, 2024).

c. Evaluation and Follow-up

Evaluation of activities is carried out through questionnaires, interviews and observations of changes in knowledge, attitudes and community participation. There was a joint reflection where participants and the team held a discussion to assess the effectiveness of the activity and the sustainability plan. In addition, there is further assistance for schools or communities that want to implement religious moderation education in a sustainable manner.

d. Data Collection Methods

To support the success of the activity, interviews and direct observation methods were used to understand the social dynamics of the community. Pre

and post test questionnaires to support increased understanding of religious moderation. Activity documentation (photos, videos, reports) as evidence and evaluation materials (Khusniyah *et al.*, 2025).

### C. Results and Discussion

This community service activity succeeded in increasing understanding, awareness, and community participation in applying the values of religious moderation based on local wisdom. The community showed positive changes in religious attitudes, social interactions, and cross-community collaboration in a multicultural environment.

#### a. Results of Socialization and Education

There is an increase in public understanding of the concept of religious moderation, especially in the aspects of national commitment, tolerance, non-violence, and acceptance of local culture. Based on the results of the pre-test and post-test, there was an average increase in participants' understanding of 40-60% after the educational activities were carried out. Participants began to understand that religious and cultural differences are not a threat, but rather a social wealth that needs to be preserved together.

#### b. Results of the Workshop and Training

Islamic Religious Education (PAI) teachers and community leaders gained the skills to integrate the value of religious moderation in learning and religious activities. A simple module for learning PAI based on local wisdom was produced, for example linking Islamic teachings with the value of gotong royong, Malay customs, and deliberation in problem solving. The trainees expressed more confidence in delivering friendly and contextualized Islamic teachings in a pluralistic society. The results of the local wisdom can be seen in **Figure 1**.





**Figure 1** One of the Local Wisdom of Tanjung Pura Kecmatan Azizi Mosque

c. Results of Inter-Community Dialogue

As a result of the inter-community dialogue, the Tanjung Pura Religious Moderation Gathering Forum was formed, involving Muslim, Christian, and Buddhist religious leaders, as well as cross-ethnic youth representatives. The forum serves as a forum for interfaith communication to prevent misunderstandings and strengthen social cooperation. Increased climate of open dialogue and mutual respect between communities in the Tanjung Pura.

d. Results of Local Wisdom-Based Empowerment

Community awareness emerged to revive local traditions such as village gotong royong, joint kenduri, and traditional deliberations as a means of strengthening interfaith social relations. Local cultural values were successfully promoted as a means of preaching moderate Islam that emphasizes togetherness, justice and compassion. Creation of educational media (leaflets, videos, and infographics) that showcase examples of the integration of religious values and local culture. Another local wisdom outcome is the Tengku Amir Hamzah Library. The local wisdom results can be seen in **Figure 2**.



**Figure 2** Tengku Amir Hamzah Library

e. Evaluation Results and Follow-up

Based on interviews and observations, participants showed an increase in tolerance and openness in their daily interactions. The sub-district government and community leaders expressed support for the program to be continued on a regular basis, especially in schools and taklim assemblies. Sustainability plan: implementation of PAI teacher mentoring and formation of religious moderation study groups at the village level.

**Activity Impact**

1. Educational Impact: increased inclusive religious literacy among communities and students.
2. Social Impact: strengthened social solidarity among interfaith and ethnic communities.
3. Cultural Impact: revitalization of local cultural values as an instrument of social harmony.
4. Spiritual Impact: increased awareness that religiosity must be realized in an attitude of love and peace.



This community service activity is a form of implementation of the Tri Dharma of Higher Education in the aspect of community service, with a focus on strengthening local wisdom-based religious moderation. Tanjung Pura sub-district is an area with a multicultural society consisting of various ethnicities and religions, making it prone to potential social friction if the values of tolerance and moderation are not fully understood.

### **Religious Moderation as a Foundation for Social Harmony**

Religious moderation is an effort to maintain a balance between commitment to religious teachings and respect for differences. This activity shows that Islamic religious education delivered in a moderate and contextual manner can be an effective means of instilling the values of peace, tolerance and social justice. (Syamsuriah *et al.*, 2025). Through socialization, discussion, and training activities, the community began to understand that Islam teaches balance (tawassuth), justice (i'tidal), and tolerance (tasamuh). These values are then integrated into the social life of the Tanjung Pura community.

### **Local Wisdom as a Contextual Approach**

Local wisdom such as gotong royong, deliberation, customary manners, and the tradition of communal kenduri have a major role in strengthening religious moderation. These values serve as a bridge between Islamic teachings and local culture, so that religious messages are not only understood normatively, but also live in people's social practices. Thus, the local wisdom-based approach is proven to be more easily accepted by the community because it is participatory and in accordance with local socio-cultural realities. (Patih, Nurulah and Hamdani, 2023).

Local wisdom is the values, knowledge, norms and practices that develop in the lives of local communities and are passed down from generation to generation. This wisdom is formed as a result of human interaction with the surrounding natural, social and cultural environment. The contextual approach in education and community development means that the learning or empowerment process is linked to the real-life

context of learners or communities. In this approach, individuals learn by linking material or concepts with real situations and conditions in their environment.(Wibawa, I Gede Margunayasa and Ni Wayan Eka Widiastini, 2024)

### **Islamic Education as an Instrument for Strengthening Moderation**

Islamic religious education has a strategic function in shaping the character of students to have moderate religious views. Through the training of PAI teachers and community leaders, this activity succeeded in producing learning modules that instill the values of tolerance, anti-radicalism, and respect for differences. Teachers are also equipped with pedagogical skills in linking Islamic teachings with local cultural values, such as fairness, honesty, and deliberation (Suhendri, Nuha and Lubis, 2025).

Religious moderation is one of the important pillars in building a harmonious life of nation and state, especially in the midst of Indonesia's religious, ethnic and cultural diversity. Islamic education has a strategic role as the main instrument in instilling the values of religious moderation, because Islamic education does not only focus on the cognitive aspects of religion, but also character building, tolerant attitudes, and balance in religion (Latifah, 2023).

Islamic education serves as a strategic instrument to strengthen religious moderation through three main aspects: The Islamic education curriculum can be integrated with materials that emphasize the values of tolerance, justice, and mutual respect. For example: introduction to the history of inclusive Islamic civilization, fiqh learning that fosters understanding of differences in madhhabs, thematic tafsir studies on human values and social justice, teachers or Islamic educators act as role models (uswah hasanah) who demonstrate moderation practices in daily actions. Teachers can teach how Islam teaches compassion, non-violence, and respect for differences of opinion. Educational institutions such as madrassas, Islamic boarding schools, and Islamic universities can become spaces for cross-cultural and religious dialogue. Through extracurricular activities, interfaith discussions, or diversity training, students can learn to appreciate diversity firsthand (Abdul Azis, 2024).

### **Cross-Community Collaboration and Participation**

One of the important results of this activity is the formation of the Tanjung Pura Religious Moderation Gathering Forum, which serves as a forum for interfaith and ethnic dialog. This forum reflects the success of the participatory approach, where the community becomes the main actor in maintaining harmony. This is in line with the principle of bottom-up approach in community development that sustainable social change must be rooted in the awareness of the community itself. (Harahap, Siregar and Harahap, 2022).

In the context of social development and community education, cross-community collaboration and participation is an important strategy to create synergy between various parties with diverse backgrounds in religion, culture, profession, and social interests. This approach becomes even more relevant in a multicultural era like Indonesia, where diversity can be a strength if managed through inclusive cooperation. (Nurun Najmatul Ulya dan Nurhidayanti, 2023)

Cross-community collaboration and participation is a key pillar in community empowerment, because it increases program effectiveness where each community brings unique strengths and resources, strengthens social solidarity where interactions between communities foster empathy and tolerance, fosters social innovation where cross-field collaboration raises new ideas and solutions to social problems, ensures program sustainability where active participation makes the program independent of one party. (Nst *et al.*, 2023). The principles of collaboration and participation across communities lead to inclusiveness where all parties are given equal space, transparency where decisions and activities are carried out openly, equality of roles where there is no dominance of one group, respect for differences where acceptance of diversity of views and cultures, and mutual results-oriented where the focus is on collective benefits, not individual gains (Fauziah, S., Tauziriye, M., Fasya, Z., Nazib, 2025).

Real Impact in the Field

After the activities took place, the community showed a change in behavior towards a more open and inclusive direction. Mutual respect between religious communities increased, and cross-community social activities began to revive. The educational impact was also seen in the increased understanding of teachers and students on the importance of religious moderation in daily life.

#### **D. Conclusion**

Community service activities have been carried out in Tanjung Puta sub-district, related to strengthening local wisdom-based religious moderation through Islamic religious education in multicultural communities. This activity succeeded in providing a deeper understanding to the community about the importance of a moderate attitude in religion in the midst of cultural, ethnic and tribal diversity. Through a contextualized Islamic religious education approach based on local wisdom values, participants were able to understand that religious moderation is not just tolerance, but also includes a balance between beliefs, respect for differences, and a spirit of togetherness. The program also showed that local wisdom, such as the values of gotong royong, deliberation, and mutual respect that have taken root in the Tanjung Pura community, can be an effective instrument in strengthening religious moderation. Collaboration between religious leaders, educators, and local communities strengthens social harmonization and reduces the potential for conflict based on differences in beliefs.

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