

Islamic Religious Education as an Effort to Overcome Radicalization Among Youth

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the role of Islamic Religious Education (PAI) in instilling the values of religious moderation in teenagers and identifying strategies implemented to prevent radicalization among them. A qualitative approach was used with data collection techniques through documentation and literature study. The research results show that PAI is effective in instilling an attitude of tolerance and understanding of religious moderation, which is an important basis for preventing radicalization. Apart from that, dialogue-based and critical teaching, as well as strengthening digital literacy, are the main strategies in increasing students' understanding of actual religious teachings. However, challenges such as a lack of in-depth understanding from some educators, limited relevant curricula, and external influences from the social environment are obstacles to its implementation. By strengthening a more inclusive curriculum and more innovative teaching methods, PAI can play a more effective role in tackling radicalization among teenagers.

Introduction

Radicalization among teenagers is a serious challenge faced by various countries, including Indonesia. Teenagers are often targets of radical ideology because of their vulnerable psychological conditions and high curiosity about new things, including extreme ideologies. In this context, Islamic Religious Education (PAI) has an important role in preventing the entry of radical ideas into the lives of teenagers. (Abdurrahman, 2020).

Islamic religious education not only aims to provide an understanding of Islamic teachings, but also instills moral values such as tolerance, compassion and respect for differences. This approach is important for forming students' characters

who are able to reject radical ideas that conflict with religious values. (Muchtar, 2019).

PAI teachers have a strategic role in teaching the values of moderation through an inclusive and dialogical approach. By creating an open learning atmosphere, students can be invited to think critically about various religious issues, so that they are able to differentiate between Islamic teachings that are rahmatan lil 'alamin and narratives that tend to be radical. (Rahmawati, 2021).

The integration of multicultural values in PAI learning is also very important. By promoting diversity and respect for differences, religious education can help teenagers understand that plurality is an unavoidable part of life's reality. This understanding can reduce the potential for conflict and strengthen social cohesion. (Hidayatullah, 2020).

Research shows that students who have a moderate understanding of religion tend to be more resistant to the influence of radical ideology. Effective religious education plays a role in forming moderate attitudes through balanced and non-dogmatic teaching. This is the key to building ideological resilience among teenagers. (Fadli, 2018).

Family involvement in supporting religious education is also an important factor. Families who actively provide religious education at home can strengthen Islamic values of peace and tolerance in their children. Synergy between family, school and community is needed to create an environment that supports the formation of strong character. (Zainuddin, 2017).

Apart from that, the challenge of radicalization in the digital era requires a new approach in Islamic Religious Education. Social media is often an effective tool for spreading extreme ideologies. Therefore, PAI must involve digital literacy education so that students are able to filter the information they receive and are not easily influenced by radical propaganda. (Syamsuddin, 2022).

Islamic religious education also needs to utilize technology as a tool to convey the values of moderation. Digital-based learning allows students to obtain religious material that is relevant to the challenges of the times, so that they are better prepared to face the influence of radical ideology. (Nugroho, 2021).

With a holistic approach, Islamic Religious Education can be the main bulwark in preventing radicalization among teenagers. A well-designed curriculum and supported by relevant teaching methods can build students' awareness of the importance of living peacefully amidst diversity. (Arifin, 2020).

In the end, religious education is not only a preventive instrument, but also shapes the character of teenagers as agents of change who are able to carry messages of peace in society. Thus, Islamic Religious Education plays a major role in creating a young generation that has noble character, is tolerant, and is far from the influence of radicalism. (Fauzi, 2019).

Method

This research uses a qualitative approach with the aim of describing in depth the role of Islamic Religious Education in overcoming radicalization among teenagers. A qualitative approach was chosen because it is able to explore data in depth related to the phenomenon studied, including the values taught in Islamic Religious Education, the teaching strategies implemented, and the challenges faced in preventing radicalization. This research focuses on analyzing documents related to religious education policy as well as reviewing relevant scientific literature.

The data collection technique in this research is through documentation and literature study. Documentation is carried out by collecting data in the form of official documents, such as the Islamic Religious Education curriculum, teaching modules, and educational policies related to preventing radicalization. Literature study involves searching literature from books, scientific journals, articles and previous research that discuss the themes of radicalization and religious education. This technique aims to obtain secondary data that supports understanding of the issue being studied.

The data obtained was analyzed using data triangulation techniques to ensure the validity and validity of the research results. Triangulation is carried out by comparing data from various sources, such as official documents, literature reviews, and findings from previous research. This process involves grouping data, identifying main themes, and connecting data with each other to produce comprehensive and reliable conclusions. With this analysis technique, it is hoped that the research will be able to provide a holistic picture of the role of Islamic Religious Education in overcoming radicalization among teenagers.

Result and Discussion

The Role of Islamic Religious Education in Instilling the Values of Religious Moderation in Adolescents

Islamic Religious Education (PAI) has an important role in forming the character of teenagers who are moderate and tolerant in religion. Religious moderation, or the attitude of practicing religion in a balanced manner without

extremism, is one of the main values taught in PAI. Through this approach, teenagers are taught to understand the teachings of Islam as a religion that is rahmatan lil 'alamin, namely bringing grace and peace to all mankind. This concept is an important foundation for preventing radicalization among the younger generation. (Abdurrahman, 2020).

One way PAI instills the value of moderation is through teaching material about tolerance and diversity. Teenagers are introduced to the concept that Islam respects differences as part of sunnatullah (God's decree). This helps them understand the importance of peaceful coexistence in a multicultural and multireligious society. PAI teachers play a key role by providing real examples in everyday life, so students can see how moderation is applied practically. (Muchtar, 2019).

Through PAI, teenagers are also invited to understand the rich history of Islam with examples of moderation. One example is the Medina Charter, which is proof that Rasulullah SAW built a just society and respected diversity. Material like this helps students understand that Islam does not support violence, but rather prioritizes dialogue and peaceful solutions in resolving conflicts. (Rahmawati, 2021).

PAI also plays a role in strengthening teenagers' understanding of the importance of critical thinking in dealing with various religious narratives. In the digital era, teenagers are often exposed to misleading information through social media. Through PAI, they are taught to analyze information sources and understand the context of religious teachings in more depth. In this way, students can protect themselves from radical ideology which often takes the name of religion. (Hidayatullah, 2020).

In addition, PAI instills the values of moderation through religious practices in schools, such as group prayer and celebration of religious holidays. This activity is designed to strengthen a sense of community and teach students the importance of respecting differences. With this approach, students not only learn theoretically, but also practically apply the values of moderation in their lives. (Fadli, 2018).

Moderation-based PAI curriculum support is an important element in achieving this goal. The curriculum is designed to provide an inclusive understanding of religion, which encourages students to uphold the values of justice, balance and tolerance. This approach ensures that PAI is not only an instrument for religious learning, but also a tool for forming adolescent characters who are able to face the challenges of diversity in society. (Zainuddin, 2017).

By integrating the values of moderation in PAI, it is hoped that teenagers can become agents of change who promote peace in society. Effective Islamic religious education is able to instill a balanced attitude towards religion, so that teenagers not only become religious individuals, but also become citizens who are able to appreciate diversity. This shows that PAI has a strategic role in building a society that is harmonious and free from radicalism. (Fauzi, 2019).

Strategies Implemented in Islamic Religious Education to Prevent Radicalization Among Youth

One of the main strategies implemented in Islamic Religious Education (PAI) to prevent radicalization among teenagers is through the integration of moderation values into the curriculum. The lesson material is designed to strengthen students' understanding of Islam as a religion that teaches compassion, tolerance and respect for diversity. With this approach, students are invited to internalize the values of *rahmatan lil 'alamin* in everyday life. (Abdurrahman, 2020).

Apart from that, dialogical teaching methods are an important strategy in PAI. Teachers act as facilitators who encourage students to discuss, ask questions and think critically about religious issues which are often manipulated by radical groups. Through class discussions, students not only understand religious teachings in depth, but are also able to differentiate between true Islamic values and misleading radical narratives. (Mughtar, 2019).

Religious practices in the school environment are also part of PAI's strategy. Activities such as interfaith discussions, celebration of religious holidays, and joint prayer create an inclusive atmosphere and strengthen a sense of togetherness. This practice not only teaches tolerance, but also teaches students to live in harmony amidst diversity. In this way, students can avoid extreme views that lead to radicalism. (Rahmawati, 2021).

PAI also uses technology as a tool to deliver material about moderation. Teachers can use digital media such as videos, online articles, and virtual discussions to introduce students to peaceful and moderate Islamic values. Apart from that, digital literacy education is an important part of this strategy, so that students are able to sort valid information from provocative or radical information in cyberspace. (Syamsuddin, 2022).

Collaboration between schools, families and communities is a key element in preventing radicalization through PAI. Families are encouraged to play an active role in providing religious education that is in line with the values of moderation. Meanwhile, society can support it by creating a tolerant and harmonious

environment. This collaborative approach ensures that the values of moderation taught in schools can continue to be applied by students in their daily lives. (Fadli, 2018).

Challenges Faced in the Implementation of Islamic Religious Education as an Effort to Overcome Radicalization

One of the main challenges in implementing Islamic Religious Education (PAI) to tackle radicalization is the lack of in-depth understanding by some educators regarding the concept of religious moderation. Some teachers may still teach religion with a dogmatic and less inclusive approach, so that students do not get a balanced understanding of Islamic teachings. This can hinder efforts to instill the values of tolerance and diversity. (Abdurrahman, 2020).

Another challenge is that the curriculum is not fully integrated with contemporary issues, such as radicalization and extremism. The subject matter in PAI sometimes still focuses on ritual and doctrinal aspects, without placing sufficient emphasis on the values of moderation and a critical attitude towards radical narratives. Curriculum that is not relevant to current needs can cause students to be less prepared to face the influence of radical ideologies in the social and digital environment. (Rahmawati, 2021).

Apart from that, the lack of supporting facilities, such as digital learning media, is also a significant challenge. In the digital era, radicalization often occurs through social media and online platforms. However, many schools have not utilized technology optimally in PAI learning. As a result, students are not equipped with adequate digital literacy to filter the information they receive in cyberspace. (Syamsuddin, 2022).

Another challenge is the influence of the environment outside the school, such as family or community which may not be in line with the values of moderation. If students are exposed to an environment that supports extreme ideologies, the moderation education taught at school can be hampered or even conflicted. Therefore, family and community involvement is very necessary to support the implementation of PAI as an effort to prevent radicalization. (Muchtar, 2019).

Lastly, the big challenge also comes from the students themselves. Teenagers are a critical age group but are also vulnerable to the influence of ideologies that offer instant answers to the various problems they face. If the PAI teaching approach is not interesting or relevant to their lives, students tend to lose interest, so that the moderation values taught are difficult to internalize. This shows the need for

innovation in PAI teaching methods to suit the needs and characteristics of adolescents. (Fadli, 2018).

The Effectiveness of Islamic Religious Education in Forming Tolerant and Inclusive Religious Understanding Among Adolescents

Islamic Religious Education (PAI) has great potential in forming a tolerant and inclusive religious understanding among teenagers. One of the prominent aspects of this education is the instilling of the values of moderation, which is the main basis for forming a tolerant attitude towards differences. PAI teaches that Islam is a religion that prioritizes peace, justice and respect for others, both among Muslims and people of other religions. By introducing this concept from an early age, PAI can form a more inclusive understanding among teenagers. (Abdurrahman, 2020).

Through an approach based on the principle of rahmatan lil 'alamin, PAI encourages teenagers to see religion not as a source of division, but as a tool for establishing more harmonious relationships between humans. This understanding is very important to overcome the potential for radicalization, which often arises from a lack of understanding of actual religious teachings. With teaching that emphasizes the importance of peace and harmony, PAI can be an effective force in forming attitudes of tolerance among teenagers. (Mughtar, 2019).

In practice, the effectiveness of PAI also depends greatly on the teaching methods used. Teaching methods based on discussion and active interaction between teachers and students enable teenagers to develop critical thinking and broaden their horizons regarding religious teachings. Learning that is not dogmatic and encourages exploration of a broader understanding of religion helps students to become familiar with various views in Islam and build an inclusive attitude. Discussions about different interpretations of Islamic teachings also teach them to respect diversity of opinion. (Rahmawati, 2021).

In addition, PAI teaching that includes the concept of diversity in a social and cultural context can strengthen teenagers' understanding of the importance of living side by side with people who have different religious and cultural backgrounds. Teaching students to not only be tolerant, but also respect differences, makes PAI an important tool in forming a pluralistic society. Activities such as inter-religious dialogue held in schools are an effective way to teach teenagers how to establish peaceful relationships with people of other religions. (Hidayatullah, 2020).

The effectiveness of PAI is also influenced by the teacher's attitude and competence in managing the class. Teachers who have a moderate and inclusive

understanding of religion tend to be better able to instill these values in students. Therefore, training and provision for PAI teachers to teach the values of tolerance and moderation is very important. Teachers must also be role models in attitudes and behavior, because direct examples of the teaching they provide will be more easily accepted and understood by students. (Fadli, 2018).

However, the main challenge in ensuring the effectiveness of PAI is external influences that can influence students' understanding of religion. Social media, for example, often becomes a means of spreading radical ideology in the name of religion. Therefore, strengthening digital literacy is also an important part of PAI to help students filter out information that is not in accordance with moderate Islamic teachings. Religious education equipped with critical skills in assessing information is very important in avoiding the influence of radicalization. (Syamsuddin, 2022).

By strengthening the curriculum and teaching methods, as well as involving all elements of education including family and community, Islamic Religious Education can significantly contribute to forming a tolerant and inclusive understanding of religion. Teenagers who are taught to understand Islam as a religion that prioritizes peace and unity will be better able to overcome radical influences that conflict with the religion's noble values. In the long term, this will create a generation of young people who are better prepared to live in a diverse and peaceful society. (Zainuddin, 2017).

Islamic religious education that is effective in forming attitudes of tolerance and inclusiveness among teenagers will also have an impact on reducing the potential for social conflict. By introducing universal religious values and emphasizing the importance of cooperation between religious communities, PAI not only shapes students' character, but also plays a role in creating a more peaceful and harmonious society. Therefore, balanced, moderate and inclusive religious education is very necessary to prevent radicalization and extremism among teenagers. (Fauzi, 2019).

Conclusion

In closing, Islamic Religious Education has a very strategic role in forming a tolerant and inclusive character of teenagers, as well as an effort to prevent radicalization among them. Through a curriculum that integrates the values of religious moderation, as well as a teaching approach that prioritizes discussion and critical understanding, PAI can provide a deeper understanding of true religious teachings, which uphold peace and harmony. However, the effectiveness of this

education is very dependent on teacher competence, inclusive classroom management, and support from the family and community environment. For this reason, strengthening PAI by involving technology, digital literacy and training for educators is crucial in facing the challenges of radicalization in this modern era. With joint efforts from all parties, it is hoped that PAI can continue to contribute to creating a young generation who not only has a moderate understanding of religion, but is also able to live a life full of tolerance, respects diversity, and distances itself from the influence of harmful radical ideologies..

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