

Training to Make Simple Songs with the Theme of Religious Moderation for Middle School Students in Jayapura Regency

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Abstract

Community Service activities carried out by lecturers at the STAKPN Sentani Church Music Department focused on training in creating songs with the theme of religious moderation for junior high school students in Jayapura Regency. Considering the importance of instilling the values of tolerance and harmony among the younger generation, this training teaches basic song creation techniques while emphasizing the role of music as a medium for conveying social messages. Through demonstration and question and answer methods, students are actively involved in the creative process, where they learn to combine technical elements of music with relevant moral messages. The results of this training show an increase in students' awareness of the importance of living in harmony amidst religious diversity. The songs created by students function as a peace campaign tool, conveying messages of peace and tolerance that are easy to understand. Thus, this activity not only improves students' musical skills, but also forms characters who are empathetic and open to differences, making them agents of change in a pluralistic society. Through this initiative, it is hoped that a younger generation will be formed that is more critical and plays an active role in promoting harmony in their environment.

Keywords: Training, Simple Songs, Religious Moderation, Middle School Students, Jayapura Regency

INTRODUCTION

Religious moderation is an important issue in maintaining religious harmony in Indonesia, especially in areas that have cultural and religious diversity such as Jayapura Regency. The challenge of maintaining harmony requires creative approaches that can embrace the younger generation, especially junior high school students. In the context of education, the values of religious moderation must be instilled from an early age so that they are able to live in harmony amidst differences. Arts training, especially in creating songs, is an effective way to convey this message.

Music is a universal medium and can unite differences (Cross, 2009; Savage et al., 2015). Simple songs created by junior high school students with the theme of religious moderation will be a strong means of instilling messages of tolerance, respect for differences and peace. Music is not only a means of self-expression, but also a medium of communication that can transcend religious and cultural boundaries (Bishop, 2018; Cross, 2009; Izen et al., 2023; Swastiwati, 2024). By involving students in this creative process, it is hoped that they will be able to understand and internalize the importance of living together and respecting each other.

The community service carried out by the STAKPN Sentani Music Department Lecturer Team is a response to the urgent need to introduce the concept of religious moderation to the younger generation. Through training in creating simple songs, it is hoped that these values can be instilled in a fun and interesting way. Middle school students involved in this training will learn not only about basic techniques in creating songs, but also how to incorporate moral messages in their musical works.

Jayapura Regency is an area with complex religious and cultural diversity. This condition demands the existence of educational programs that not only focus on academics, but also on developing students' character, especially in aspects of religious tolerance and moderation. This training, which was organized by the STAKPN Sentani Music Department Lecturer Team, aims to answer these challenges in a creative and innovative way.

In this training, junior high school students will be invited to understand the meaning of religious moderation and express it through the songs they create. It is hoped that their involvement in this process will form a deeper understanding of the importance of

maintaining harmony amidst differences. The songs they produce also have the potential to be a tool for spreading messages of religious moderation that can be adopted in schools, families and communities.

Apart from that, this training also functions as a medium for developing students' talents and creativity in the field of music. The students will be given space to express their ideas freely in the form of songs, which will ultimately enrich their learning experience. Thus, this activity not only has an impact on developing the values of religious moderation, but also on increasing students' skills and confidence in their work.

The main aim of this training is to form a young generation who has a strong understanding of the importance of religious moderation and is able to express this understanding through works of art. The songs they create will be concrete evidence of their understanding and will serve as a medium for spreading messages of tolerance and peace in society.

It is hoped that this community service activity can be a real contribution in forming a social environment that is more harmonious, tolerant and respectful of each other. By involving junior high school students in the creative process of creating songs with the theme of religious moderation, the STAKPN Sentani Music Department Lecturer Team is trying to build awareness of the importance of living together amidst existing diversity.

METHOD

The community service activity carried out by the STAKPN Sentani Church Music Department lecturer team for junior high school students in Jayapura Regency aims to teach them how to create simple songs with the theme of religious moderation. In this training, the demonstration method is used to introduce basic song creation techniques, such as melody, rhythm and lyrics. The lecturer provides direct examples of how to make musical compositions that are harmonious and easy for students to understand. The songs created were directed to reflect messages of religious moderation, such as tolerance,

harmony and mutual respect between religious communities.

Apart from the demonstration method, this training also uses a question-and-answer method to encourage active participation from students. Students are invited to ask questions about things they don't understand, both in the technical aspects of music and in understanding the concept of religious moderation. This method provides space for students to explore their creativity while exploring the values of togetherness and tolerance through music. Open and interactive discussions help students link theory with practice, so that it is easier for them to internalize the message to be conveyed.

With this collaborative approach, community service activities are expected to be able to equip students not only with basic skills in creating songs, but also with a deeper understanding of the importance of living in harmony amidst religious differences. The songs they produce can be a means of expressing these values, as well as being a positive contribution to their social and cultural environment.

PkM activities will take place on Thursday 11 July 2023 at 10.00-12.00 WIT located at YPPK Bonaventura Sentani Middle School. The participants consisted of students in Jayapura Regency.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Creative Process and Basic Techniques in Song Creation

Community service activities by a team of lecturers from the STAKPN Sentani Church Music Department aim to teach junior high school students in Jayapura Regency the basic techniques for creating songs, especially those with the theme of religious moderation. This training process does not only focus on teaching musical techniques, but also on instilling the values of tolerance and harmony between religious communities through art. The creative process in creating songs begins with the introduction of basic musical elements such as melody, harmony and lyrics (Tatit, 2016; Xing et

al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2022). Students are introduced to these basic concepts so they can easily understand how songs are formed and how to compose meaningful songs.

In the first stage, students are taught about melody, which is an important element in a song. Melody is a sequence of notes that forms the character and identity of the song (Gutama, 2020; Prince, 2014; SCHULKIND et al., 2003). Through the demonstration method, the lecturer listens to examples of simple melodies and invites students to create their own melodies. This technique is carried out in stages, starting from introducing basic scales to how to combine these notes into a complete melody. Students are also given the opportunity to experiment with simple musical instruments to help them understand how melodies can be produced.



Figure 1.1. The temporary lecturer explained the creative process and basic techniques in song creation

Next, harmony is introduced as an element that complements the melody. Harmony is a combination of several notes played together to create a richer and deeper sound (Chan et al., 2019; Ferdian et al., 2023). At this stage, students learn how to select and combine basic chords to support the melody they have created. Using the demonstration method, the lecturer gives examples of how chords can strengthen the meaning of a song. Students are then invited to practice matching the chords to the melodies they create, so that a musical composition is formed that is harmonious and pleasant to listen to.

Another important element taught in this training is lyrics. Lyrics are words that accompany the melody and harmony in a song (Ali & Peynircioğlu, 2006; Panjaitan, 2015; Rahmatulloh et al., 2024). In this section, students are invited to explore messages of religious moderation and express them through song lyrics. The lecturer provides guidance on how to compose lyrics that are simple but have deep meaning, so that the values of tolerance, peace and harmony between religious communities can be conveyed well through songs. The question-and-answer method is used in this process to help students express their ideas and seek inspiration from personal experiences.



Figure 1.2. The team of lecturers temporarily trains basic techniques in song creation

The creative process in creating songs does not stop at the technical aspects alone. Students are also invited to think critically about the message they want to convey through songs. Through group discussions, they were encouraged to consider how religious moderation could be translated into music that could be enjoyed by many people. Lecturers facilitate this process by providing examples of songs that contain social and religious

messages, as well as guiding students in processing their ideas into complete musical works.

The demonstration method used in this training provides students with a real picture of how the song creation process works. By seeing firsthand how lecturers create melodies, harmonies and lyrics, students gain a better understanding of the steps that must be followed. Apart from that, this method also provides opportunities for students to learn practically and participate actively in every stage of song creation. They not only heard the theory, but also immediately applied it in the practice of creating their own songs.

Apart from the demonstration method, the question-and-answer method is also an integral part of this training. Through questions and answers, students can ask questions about things they don't understand, both in the technical aspects of music and in understanding the values of religious moderation. The lecturer patiently answers these questions and provides in-depth explanations so that students can absorb the information well. This open discussion encourages students to be more involved and feel comfortable in exploring their creativity.

Through a combination of demonstration and question and answer methods, this training succeeded in creating an interactive and fun learning atmosphere. Students are not only taught how to compose songs, but are also trained to think critically and creatively in conveying messages through music. With lecturer guidance, they learned that songs can be a powerful medium for conveying important messages such as religious moderation.

This service activity not only aims to improve students' musical skills, but also to instill the values of religious moderation through art. It is hoped that the songs they create can be a means of spreading messages of tolerance, peace and harmony in society. Through this creative process, students in Jayapura Regency are expected to be able to become agents of change who can build harmony in a social life which is full of religious and cultural diversity.

This training provides broad benefits, both in terms of developing students' musical skills and in efforts to form a young generation that has a deep understanding of the importance of living together amidst differences. This activity also proves that art, especially music, can be an effective tool for teaching important social values, such as religious moderation.

2. Impact of Training in Building Awareness of Religious Moderation in Students

Training on creating songs with the theme of religious moderation carried out by a team of lecturers from the STAKPN Sentani Church Music Department had a significant impact in building awareness of junior high school students regarding the importance of living in harmony amidst religious differences. In this training, students are taught how songs can be an effective medium for conveying social messages, including the values of peace, tolerance and moderation. Through the creative process of creating songs, students gain direct experience in processing these themes into works of art that are relevant and meaningful for their environment.

Songs as a medium for conveying messages have extraordinary power. Songs create a sense of togetherness, solidarity, and shared purpose, which often provides encouragement and hope for social movements (Rosselson, 2021). Through melodies and lyrics, students can communicate abstract ideas such as peace and tolerance in a way that is easily understood and enjoyed by many people. In the context of religious moderation, songs provide a platform for students to convey messages that promote mutual respect and respect amidst religious diversity. The songs produced from this training have the potential to become peaceful campaign tools that can be sung at various events, both at school and in community activities.

The impact of this training is not only felt in the technical realm of song

creation, but also in forming students' awareness of the importance of religious moderation. During the training process, students actively discuss the meaning of tolerance and how it can be translated into everyday life. By incorporating the values of moderation into song lyrics, students learn to better understand the importance of living side by side in harmony, despite having different religious backgrounds.

This training also plays an important role in shaping students' character to be more empathetic and open to differences. Through group discussions, students are invited to see various points of view regarding religious moderation and understand the life experiences of other people who may be different from theirs. This process encourages them to be more sensitive to social issues around them, such as intolerance and inter-religious conflict, and to try to find creative solutions through the medium of music.



Figure 1.3 Students sing a religious moderation song created by them.

One of the expected results of this training is the creation of a younger generation who is more tolerant and open to differences. In the context of religious life in Papua, this training is very relevant because Papua is known for its ethnic and religious diversity. Through this training, junior high school students in Jayapura Regency are equipped with creative skills to spread messages of peace and harmony through songs, which can help reduce the potential for conflict in the future.

Another positive impact is increasing students' self-confidence in

contributing to society. By creating songs with the theme of religious moderation, students feel that they can play an active role in spreading positive messages to their peers and the wider community. This also strengthens their sense of social responsibility, where they realize that their role as students is not limited to the classroom, but also as agents of change in their environment.

This training also builds awareness of the importance of art as a communication tool. Students learn that music is not only entertainment, but also a medium that can be used to convey important messages. Thus, this training provides students with new insights into how they can use their creative skills for greater goals, such as building a more harmonious and peaceful society.

Apart from forming students' awareness regarding religious moderation, this training also has a positive impact on relationships between students from various religious backgrounds. Through working together to create songs, they learn to respect each other's differences and work together towards the same goal. This creates stronger bonds between students and reduces the potential for conflict due to religious differences at school.

From the community side, the impact of this training is also felt in the form of songs that can be sung in various social and religious activities. The songs created by students have the potential to become symbols of unity and harmony in their environment. Through this training, the community gets real examples of how art can play a role in promoting the values of religious moderation.

This community service activity has had a broad impact, both on students and the community in Jayapura Regency. By using music as a medium, this training succeeded in raising students' awareness of the importance of religious moderation and equipping them with creative skills to spread positive messages. Through this process, it is hoped that a younger

generation will be created that is more tolerant, empathetic and plays an active role in creating a more harmonious society amidst religious and cultural diversity.

CONCLUSION

Community Service Activities carried out by lecturers at the STAKPN Sentani Church Music Department are a creative initiative in teaching religious moderation through the art of music. This training has improved students' ability to compose songs, as well as instilling important values such as tolerance and harmony between religious communities. Through interactive approaches such as demonstration and question and answer methods, students learn basic techniques for creating songs that also convey messages about the importance of living in harmony amidst diversity.

This training not only equips students with musical skills, but also strengthens their awareness of the importance of religious moderation. The songs they created function as a means to convey messages of peace and tolerance in a form that is creative and easy for many people to understand. This activity has contributed to the creation of a young generation who is critical and plays an active role in building harmony in a diverse society.

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