

## Training on Creating Song Content with the Theme of Religious Moderation for Middle School Students in Jayapura Regency

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### Abstract

*Training to create song content on the theme of religious moderation for junior high school students in Jayapura Regency aims to instill the values of religious moderation and equip the younger generation with social responsibility in maintaining harmony. By using demonstration and question and answer methods, this training not only facilitates understanding of religious moderation but also involves students in the creative process of song creation. The results of the training show that music has effective emotional power in building solidarity and instilling awareness of the importance of interfaith dialogue and respect for differences. Students not only learn to compose songs, but also develop collaboration and message delivery skills through digital media, making them content producers capable of disseminating messages of religious moderation to a wider community. In conclusion, this training proves that a creative approach to music is an effective way to educate and involve students in spreading the values of religious moderation. By including local and technological elements, this training makes the moderation message more relevant and relatable. This plays an important role in forming a generation that is not only academically intelligent but also has a strong character in respecting diversity, ready to face social and religious challenges in the future.*

**Keywords:** Training, Song Content, Approach, Moderation Theme, Middle School Students, Jayapura Regency

### INTRODUCTION

Training on creating song content on the theme of religious moderation for junior high school students in Jayapura Regency, organized by a team of lecturers and STAKPN Sentani Church Music education staff, is part of a strategic effort to strengthen the values of tolerance and religious harmony among the younger generation. Jayapura Regency is an area with quite high religious diversity, so it is important to equip students with an understanding of religious moderation from an early age. Through music, these messages can be conveyed in a more interesting and enjoyable way.

Religious moderation education is very important to provide from an early age, especially for junior high school students who are in the character formation phase. Religious moderation does not only mean a neutral attitude towards other religions, but more than that, it involves respect, cooperation and avoidance of extremism in religion (Hakim & Mudofir, 2023). This moderation lesson is important not only in the cognitive aspect, but also in the development of daily attitudes and behavior.

Music, as a universal medium that is easily accepted by the younger generation, offers an effective way to convey the values of

religious moderation. Music has the power to influence emotions and behavior (Koelsch, 2014; McDonald et al., 2022; Palazzi et al., 2019), so that through singing content with the theme of religious moderation, junior high school students can more easily absorb the values of tolerance, unity and harmony. In an educational context, music can also be used as a creative means to convey moral and religious messages in a more fun and interesting way.

In Jayapura Regency, the majority of junior high school students have studied music, either through school activities or in their social environment. Considering that music is part of their daily lives, training in creating singing content with the theme of religious moderation is a relevant and contextual strategy for instilling these values. Through this activity, students can learn not only about religious moderation theoretically, but also express it through creative works in the form of songs.

The main aim of this training is to encourage students to be able to create songs that contain messages of religious moderation and share their works with their peers and the wider community. In this way, the values of religious moderation can be spread more widely and accepted positively by the

community. Apart from that, through this creative process, students are also taught to collaborate, work together, and respect each other, all of which are part of the practice of moderation itself.

It is also hoped that this training can overcome the challenges faced by religious teachers in teaching religious moderation. Often, religious lesson material only focuses on doctrinal aspects without paying attention to how students internalize and practice the values of moderation in real life (Bulqois, 2024; Satria et al., 2021). With this training, students not only learn through theory, but also through real practice that is relevant to their social and cultural context.

Furthermore, this training is a form of response to developments in the era that increasingly rely on technology and digital media. Today's young generation is growing up in an environment filled with social media and digital content (Elvinaro & Syarif, 2022; S et al., 2019). Therefore, teaching them to produce musical content on the theme of religious moderation not only increases their understanding of moderation, but also equips them with digital skills that are relevant in the current era. The content they create can be uploaded to digital platforms, so it has a wider reach.

In the long term, it is hoped that this training will be able to instill strong values of religious moderation among junior high school students in Jayapura Regency. With the musical works they create; students will feel they have a responsibility to maintain harmony and peace in their environment. Through the songs they sing, it is hoped that a collective awareness will emerge of the importance of living side by side in religious diversity by respecting each other and working together.

Training to create song content on the theme of religious moderation for junior high school students in Jayapura Regency carried out by a team of lecturers and STAKPN Sentani Church Music education staff is an important and relevant initiative. By utilizing music as an educational medium, this training succeeded in equipping students with the values of religious moderation that they can

carry and apply in their daily lives, while helping to build a more tolerant and competitive generation.

## METHOD

The STAKPN Sentani Church Music lecturer and educational staff team held community service activities for junior high school students in Jayapura Regency, with a focus on training in creating song content on the theme of religious moderation. This activity uses demonstration and question and answer methods as the main approach to facilitate students' understanding of the importance of religious moderation and how to convey it through the medium of music.

The demonstration method is a very effective approach in teaching practical skills such as creating musical content. In this training, lecturers and education staff demonstrated ways to create songs with the theme of religious moderation, starting from composing lyrics to composing relevant music. The demonstration was carried out by introducing examples of songs that had messages about tolerance, unity and respect for differences. Through this demonstration, students can see directly the creative process in making songs, so that it is easier for them to understand the concepts and techniques presented.

The question-and-answer method is used as the main support to deepen students' understanding. In the question-and-answer session, students were given the opportunity to ask questions about things they did not understand or wanted to know more about the process of making songs. These questions can range from musical technique to how to integrate the values of religious moderation in song lyrics. With this interactive discussion, students can explore topics in more depth, and lecturers can provide more focused explanations according to students' needs.

PkM activities will take place on Saturday 13 July 2023 at 09.00-12.00 WIT located at YPPK Bonaventura High School. The participants consisted of students in Jayapura Regency.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. The Importance of Song Content with the Theme of Religious Moderation for Middle School Students in Jayapura Regency

Training to create song content on the theme of religious moderation for junior high school students in Jayapura Regency has a very important role in forming a young generation who is tolerant and able to appreciate diversity. Jayapura Regency is an area consisting of people with diverse religious backgrounds. In this context, religious moderation is very important to instill in students in order to create harmonious relationships between educators, students, society and the surrounding environment so as to create an environment that is peaceful, comfortable and safe from various threats (Boiliu, 2022). Song content with the theme of religious moderation is one effective way to instill these values from an early age.

Singing is an attractive medium for students because through music, messages can be conveyed in a more enjoyable and easier to understand way (Weeks, 2015; Yang & Yu, 2023). Songs that carry the theme of religious moderation can function as a means to teach students about the importance of tolerance and mutual respect (Budiman, 2020). Apart from that, students can also understand that religious differences are not something that should cause conflict, but can be a strength to complement each other and learn from each other (O'Grady & Jackson, 2020).

The importance of religious moderation is increasingly relevant amidst societal dynamics which often trigger friction between religions (Azmi et al., 2023; Pancarani, 2024). By involving students as the younger generation through singing content, they are not only invited to memorize the lyrics, but also reflect on the meaning of each word sung. These songs can contain messages about compassion, peace, and unity in diversity, all of which are at the heart of religious moderation.

In addition, this training has great potential to strengthen students' understanding of national values. Religious moderation is not only related to inter religious tolerance, but is also closely related to the spirit of unity as a diverse Indonesian nation (Salsabila Azahra & Zaenul Slam, 2022; Yusuf & Mutiara, 2022). By singing songs that encourage a sense of brotherhood regardless of religious background, junior high school students in Jayapura Regency will learn to be part of an inclusive and open society.

Music also has strong emotional power in building a sense of solidarity. In this training, students not only learn to compose songs, but also experience a creative process that teaches them the importance of working together and respecting other people's opinions. When they collaborate to create songs about religious moderation, they are invited to think critically about how these values can be applied in everyday life. Song content with the theme of religious moderation can also act as a tool to reject extremism. In an increasingly complex society, a narrow understanding of religion can trigger radicalism. By introducing students to songs that emphasize the importance of interfaith dialogue and respect for differences, they will have strong provisions to reject extremist calls that have the potential to damage the social order.



Figure 1.1 The presenter explains the importance of songs with the theme of religious moderation for students

Apart from that, training in creating singing content also encourages active student involvement in spreading the message of moderation. Not only as listeners or recipients of messages, students become creators of content that can be disseminated more widely via social media or other digital platforms. That way, the impact of this training can reach more people, including the wider community who hear their works. The training process delivered through music is also more interesting and interactive for junior high school students. They are not only invited to listen to lectures or discussions about religious moderation, but are also directly involved in a fun creative process. This experience will make them more enthusiastic in accepting the values of moderation, because they feel emotionally and intellectually involved in learning.

As part of community service, this training also shows the important role of educational institutions in promoting the values of religious moderation. Lecturers and educational staff from the STAKPN Sentani Church Music Department make a real contribution in forming students as a young generation who are sensitive to religious and social issues. This is in line with the educational mission to produce individuals who are not only academically intelligent, but also have strong character in respecting differences. This training is a strategic step in building a generation that is ready to live in a pluralistic society. The song content with the theme of religious moderation serves as a bridge that connects noble values with students' daily lives, making them better prepared to face social and religious challenges in the future.

## 2. Strategy for Creating Song Content with the Theme of Religious Moderation for Middle School Students

An important first step in this strategy is to provide students with a solid understanding of the concept of religious moderation. Before starting to create singing content, students need to understand that religious moderation

includes values such as tolerance, respect for differences, and maintaining harmony in diversity. With this foundation of knowledge, it will be easier for students to express ideas about religious moderation into relevant and meaningful song lyrics.

The next strategy is to determine the right theme for the songs to be created. Themes such as “Interreligious Harmony,” “Compassion in Diversity, and “Peace in the Midst of Differences” can be suitable choices. These themes should be simple but evocative, so that students can understand the message of moderation well and be able to express it through song.



Figure 1.2 Students sing a song with the theme of religious moderation

In the process of creating songs, it is important to actively involve students. A collaborative approach can be used by dividing students into small groups to work together to write lyrics. In this process, students are invited to share ideas and explore their personal experiences in dealing with differences. This approach not only enriches the content of the songs, but also builds students' ability to work together and respect other people's opinions.

Middle school students tend to understand simple and direct lyrics more easily. Therefore, the lyric writing strategy must focus on simplicity without reducing the depth of the message. Messages about religious moderation can be packaged in light and easy to understand language, but still convey important values such as unity and harmony.



As part of a content development strategy, local elements can be incorporated into songs. Traditional musical instruments or typical Papuan melodies, for example, can be part of the song arrangement. This not only increases students' emotional closeness to the song, but also strengthens their sense of pride in local culture. Songs with a local touch will be more easily accepted and understood by the community in Jayapura Regency.

The melodies in the songs are arranged in such a way that they are easy for students to sing. Melodies that are too complicated can prevent students from feeling comfortable singing these songs. Focusing on simple, harmonious and attractive melodies is very important so that the message of religious moderation can be conveyed well and is easily remembered by students. Fun music will also make students more enthusiastically involved in the learning process.

In creating songs, every part, from the intro, verse, to chorus, must consistently convey the message of religious moderation. The chorus or refrain can be the most important part, because it is usually easy to remember. Values such as respect for differences, compassion, and unity may be repeated in the chorus to emphasize the message. As a generation that is familiar with technology, junior high school students can be invited to use digital media to create singing content. Platforms such as simple music making apps or social media can be used to record and share their work. By using technology, students can also be more creative in adding sound or visual elements that support the message of religious moderation.

This strategy also involves students in the overall song production process. In addition to writing and

singing songs, students can learn about how to record and edit music, as well as distribute content via online platforms. Through this process, students not only become content consumers, but also active producers who can spread the message of religious moderation to the wider community.

## CONCLUSION

Training to create song content on the theme of religious moderation for junior high school students in Jayapura Regency is a strategic step in equipping the younger generation with a deep understanding of the values of moderation. Through a creative approach, students are invited to create songs that emphasize the importance of tolerance, respect for differences, and harmony in diversity. The songs they produce not only function as learning media, but also as a means to spread the message of moderation in everyday life. In this way, this training helps strengthen students' understanding of the importance of living in harmony amidst the reality of religious diversity in their society.

Apart from that, this training also encourages students' active involvement in the process of creating meaningful musical content. They are not only invited to understand the theory of religious moderation, but also invited to express it through simple but powerful lyrics and melodies. Through a collaborative approach and the use of local elements, such as typical Papuan music, students can create works that are relevant to their social context. This process allows students to internalize the message of religious moderation and spread positive influence through digital media, expanding the reach of the message to a wider community.

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