

Strengthening Moderation Be Religious Interfaith Youth in the Religious Moderation Village Assisted by STAKPN Sentani

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Abstract

In Hinekombe Village, religious diversity encourages efforts to strengthen religious moderation among youth across faiths. Community service activities focus on strengthening religious moderation for interfaith youth in the Religious Moderation Village assisted by STAKPN Sentani, which aims to increase understanding and practice of religious moderation in order to create social harmony. The methods used in this activity are lectures, interactive discussions, and questions and answers involving youth from various religious backgrounds. In addition, a community-based approach is implemented by encouraging active youth participation in various social activities and interfaith dialogue. Evaluation is carried out through measuring participants' understanding before and after the activity, as well as observing the impact of the program in daily life. The results of the activity showed that the interfaith youth involved experienced an increased understanding of the importance of religious moderation and had a stronger commitment to implementing the values of tolerance and togetherness. Collaboration with the government, religious leaders and educational institutions plays an important role in supporting the sustainability of this program. In conclusion, this PkM succeeded in having a positive impact on interfaith youth in the Religious Moderation Village. With sustainable activities, it is hoped that a more inclusive and harmonious environment will be created in social life.

Keywords: Religious Moderation, Interfaith Youth, Religious Moderation Village, Hinekombe Village, STAKPN Sentani

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country rich in ethnic, cultural and religious diversity. This diversity becomes the nation's identity as well as a challenge in maintaining social unity and harmony. In some areas, the potential for religious-based conflict is still an issue that needs to be anticipated, especially among the younger generation [1]. Youth as the nation's next generation have a strategic role in building social harmony, so it is important for them to have a moderate understanding of religion. (Utomo & Witasari, 2024)

Hinekombe, a sub-district in Sentani, Papua, is known as an area that has religious diversity. In this context, strengthening religious moderation becomes very relevant to create a peaceful and inclusive social life. As an effort to strengthen religious moderation, STAKPN Sentani took the initiative to build a Religious Moderation Village in Hinekombe. This program aims to build inclusive religious understanding and encourage harmonious social interaction among youth across faiths.

However, in its implementation, religious moderation in Hinekombe was strengthened

face various challenges. One of the main challenges is that there is still exclusivism in the understanding of religion among young people. This attitude often stems from a lack of interfaith dialogue and minimal social interaction between youth from different religious backgrounds. As a result, stereotypes and prejudice emerge which can weaken social ties.

Apart from that, social media factors also play an important role in shaping youth mindsets regarding diversity issues [2]. The uncontrolled flow of information often strengthens narratives of religious intolerance and fanaticism [3]. The spread of hoaxes and religious-based hate speech on social media can influence the way young people view other groups. Therefore, the religious moderation program in Hinekombe Village needs to pay special attention to digital literacy and positive use of social media.

Religious education taught in schools and in the family environment also plays a major role in shaping young people's understanding of religious moderation [4]. However, in some cases, religious learning methods are still exclusive and do not provide space for interfaith discussions. This is one of

the obstacles in building inclusive understanding. Therefore, an educational approach based on dialogue and direct experience between religious communities needs to be integrated into the religious moderation program in Hinekombe Village.

As a Village for Religious Moderation, Hinekombe has great potential to become a model in building diversity-based social harmony in Jayapura Regency. Through social activities, interfaith discussions, and leadership training based on religious moderation, youth can be equipped with skills in managing diversity constructively. This program can also be a forum for youth to strengthen their sense of togetherness and cross-faith solidarity in their daily lives.

Support from the Sentani District government, the STAKPN Sentani educational institution, and community organizations is needed to ensure the sustainability of this program. Close collaboration between academics, religious leaders and interfaith youth can be the key to creating a conducive environment for strengthening religious moderation. Apart from that, community involvement in various interfaith activities can also strengthen the values of tolerance and brotherhood between religious believers.

Even though various efforts have been made, there are still challenges in maintaining the sustainability of this program. Changing social mindsets and attitudes requires a continuous process and cannot be done instantly [5]. Therefore, a more systematic strategy based on a long-term approach is needed so that religious moderation not only becomes a discourse, but also becomes part of the practice of social life in Hinekombe Village.

Through this community service activity, it is hoped that a more effective approach can be found in building moderate understanding among interfaith youth. Research and evaluation of the impact of this program is also important so that improvements and development can be made in the future. In this way, the Religious Moderation Village in Hinekombe can be an inspiration for other regions in building social harmony based on diversity.

By strengthening religious moderation, it is hoped that youth in Hinekombe can become active agents of change in maintaining social unity and harmony. This program not only aims to build a more inclusive understanding, but also to create a more tolerant and peaceful environment. The success of this program will be a real contribution in realizing a more harmonious society amidst the religious diversity that exists in Indonesia.

METHOD

The activity was carried out with the presentation of material about the role of youth in strengthening religious moderation through lecture, discussion and question and answer methods. After that, the team gave the opportunity to young people with Christian, Catholic, Hindu and Buddhist religious backgrounds in Hinekombe Village to discuss the religious moderation material that had been explained. Program-based PkM activities directed by a team of lecturers and staff at STAKPN Sentani are expected to provide solutions to interfaith youth in Hinekombe Village in interpreting religious moderation to act better and create peace and unity in Hinekombe Village.

The implementation of PkM activities took place in the Sentani District Office Hall on Wednesday, November 13 2024, Sentani District, Jayapura Regency. The evaluation method in this activity is directly during the activity, the PkM team asks questions about religious moderates to measure the understanding of youth in Hinekombe Village regarding the material presented.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Essence and Role of Interfaith Youth in Implementing Religious Moderation

Religious moderation is an approach to religious life that emphasizes balance, tolerance and respect for differences [6]. In the multicultural and multireligious context of Indonesia, this concept is the key to building social harmony [7]. Religious moderation aims to avoid extremism, both in the form of radicalism and exclusive attitudes that reject diversity [8]. Therefore, religious moderation

must be applied in various aspects of life, especially among the younger generation who will become future leaders. (Suharto, 2021)

In order to strengthen religious moderation among interfaith youth, STAKPN Sentani held an activity entitled "Strengthening Religious Moderation among Interfaith Youth." This activity is part of the implementation of the Religious Moderation Village program which aims to create a society that respects each other in religious diversity.

Chairman of STAKPN Sentani, Fredrik Warwer, emphasized that this program is a form of support for the Indonesian Ministry of Religion's policy in promoting religious moderation. According to him, through this activity, people can better understand the importance of respecting differences and creating harmony among diverse communities. This is important so that young people can become agents of peace and uphold the values of togetherness in religious life [9].



Figure 1. Chairman of STAKPN Sentani, Dr. Fredrik Warwer, M.Th promotes religious moderation programs for Interfaith Youth

Furthermore, Opince Dimara, as Acting Officer in Hinekombe Village, also expressed his appreciation for this initiative. He considered that this activity was very relevant in building a peaceful and tolerant religious attitude among the younger generation. Youth are expected to remain firm in their beliefs while respecting the diversity that exists around them. An open and inclusive attitude is very necessary so that differences do not become a source of conflict, but instead enrich life together [10].

This activity presents two in-depth material sessions. Yohanes Labobar as a Lecturer at STAKPN Sentani, delivered

material about the essence and role of interfaith youth in implementing religious moderation in society. This material aims to increase youth awareness of the importance of their role in maintaining social harmony. The participation of interfaith youth in this activity shows that religious moderation can be implemented through interfaith collaboration. The presence of religious figures and government representatives from Hinekombe and Entropy sub districts also strengthened the spirit of togetherness in creating an inclusive and peaceful environment. This kind of interfaith interaction is very important to build trust and prevent misunderstandings between religious communities.



Figure 2. Dr. Yohanes Labobar, M.Th as a Lecturer at STAKPN Sentani, delivered material about the essence and role of interfaith youth

STAKPN Sentani, through the Religious Moderation Village program, is committed to continuing to develop the young generation to be active in caring for diversity. The hope is that this initiative will not only be a ceremonial activity, but will also have a real impact on people's lives. With a sustainable approach, the values of religious moderation can be instilled from an early age in the family, school and community.

As a further step, it is important for interfaith youth to continue to develop their understanding of religious moderation through discussions and joint activities. Strengthening this understanding can be done through training, seminars and cultural exchange programs involving various religious groups. In this way, young people can better understand different perspectives and avoid prejudices that can lead to conflict.

This activity ended with an interactive discussion session between participants and resource persons. In the discussion, various constructive ideas emerged about how young people could be more active in implementing the values of religious moderation. Participants agreed that diversity is a gift that must be cared for together in order to create a peaceful and harmonious society.

Religious moderation is not just a concept, but must be translated into real action, especially among youth across faiths. With initiatives such as those carried out by STAKPN Sentani, youth can better understand and apply the values of tolerance, inclusiveness and interfaith cooperation. Thus, religious moderation can be a strong foundation in building a more peaceful and harmonious future for the people of Hinekombe Village.

Strategy for Strengthening Religious Moderation for Interfaith Youth

Religious moderation is the key to maintaining harmony amidst the diversity of society. (Widhiyana, 2022) In the context of Hinekombe Village, where there are various religious and cultural backgrounds, a strategy to strengthen religious moderation for interfaith youth is a necessity. Youth as the next generation need to be equipped with a deep understanding of the values of tolerance, openness and cooperation between religious communities to create a peaceful and harmonious environment.

One of the main strategies in strengthening religious moderation for interfaith youth in Hinekombe Village is through education and training. STAKPN Sentani has taken the initiative by holding Religious Moderation activities. This activity can provide youth with a deeper understanding of the importance of moderation in religion and how to apply it in everyday life.

Another strategy is to actively encourage interfaith dialogue. In activities held by STAKPN Sentani, interactive discussions are one of the methods applied to open space for interfaith youth to share their views on diversity. With forums like this, young people

can eliminate negative prejudices and build better relationships with others.



Program and strategies for strengthening religious moderation for interfaith youth

Apart from dialogue, collaboration in social activities is also an effective strategy in strengthening religious moderation. Through interfaith cooperation in real actions such as social service activities, mutual cooperation, or humanitarian aid programs, interfaith youth can directly experience the benefits of togetherness and caring for others. This approach helps them understand that religious differences are not a barrier to working together to create a better life.

The Hinekombe Subdistrict Government also has an important role in supporting this strategy to strengthen religious moderation. Support from the local government, as stated by the Acting Head of Hinekombe Subdistrict, Opince Dimara, is very much needed to ensure the sustainability of the religious moderation program in the youth community. With supportive policies and adequate facilities, religious moderation activities can be more structured and have a wider impact.

The next strategy is to strengthen the role of religious leaders in guiding youth to implement the values of religious moderation. Religious figures have moral authority who can be role models for the younger generation in understanding their religious teachings in a

more inclusive way. (Warwer, 2024) In activities held by STAKPN Sentani, the presence of various religious leaders provided diverse perspectives and enriched youth's understanding of the importance of respecting differences.

To ensure the sustainability of this program, there needs to be a continuous evaluation and development system. Evaluation of the effectiveness of activities that have been carried out can be the basis for developing better strategies in the future. With consistent monitoring and support, strengthening religious moderation in Hinekombe Village can continue to develop and have a wider impact.

The strategy to strengthen religious moderation for interfaith youth in Hinekombe Village is carried out holistically by involving various parties. Education, dialogue, social collaboration, government support, the role of religious leaders, and ongoing evaluation must go hand in hand to create young people who not only understand the importance of religious moderation, but are also able to apply it in their lives.

With these strategies, it is hoped that Hinekombe Village can become an example for other regions in building a harmonious society amidst diversity. Interfaith youth who have moderate understanding will be at the forefront in maintaining unity and creating a more peaceful future for Indonesia.

CONCLUSION

Community Service Activities which focus on "Strengthening Religious Moderation of Interfaith Youth in the Religious Moderation Village Assisted by STAKPN Sentani" have shown positive results in building youth understanding and awareness of the importance of tolerance and social harmony. Through an educational approach involving lectures, interactive discussions, and interfaith leadership training, youth from various religious backgrounds can understand the essence of religious moderation and develop inclusive attitudes in everyday life. Apart from that, the involvement of religious leaders, academics and local government is a

key factor in supporting the sustainability of this program.

With this program, the Religious Moderation Village in Hinekombe Village can become a model in building a harmonious society and respecting each other's differences. However, to maintain the sustainability and effectiveness of the program, a long-term strategy is needed that includes continuous education, strengthening interfaith communities, and using social media as a means of disseminating the values of moderation. The success of this program confirms that strengthening religious moderation must be a common agenda in realizing a peaceful and inclusive society amidst religious and cultural diversity.

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