



## THE ROLE OF RELIGIOUS MODERATION IN THE ISLAMIC BOARDING SCHOOL CURRICULUM AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RAHMATAN LIL'ALAMIN ISLAMIC TEACHINGS A STUDY OF TOLERANT CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT IN THE SYAICHONA CHOLIL ISLAMIC BOARDING SCHOOL, KUTAI TIMUR

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### Abstract:

This study explores the role of religious moderation in the curriculum of Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School in East Kutai as an implementation of the Islamic teachings of *rahmatan lil-'alamin* (mercy for all worlds). One of the key approaches emphasized at this pesantren is religious moderation, which aligns with the principle of fostering peace and tolerance. The research focuses on how religious moderation is integrated into the pesantren's curriculum and its impact on character development, specifically in nurturing tolerance among students. Using a descriptive qualitative method, this study examines the pesantren's efforts to enhance religious moderation, embody the teachings of *rahmatan lil-'alamin*, and promote a tolerant attitude within its educational framework. The findings highlight the significant role of pesantren in shaping students' values and behaviors through a balanced approach to religious education, fostering a more inclusive and harmonious society.

### Keywords:

*Religious moderation, pesantren curriculum, rahmatan lil-'alamin, tolerance, character development, Syaichona Cholil, Islamic education.*

## INTRODUCTION

### Religious Moderation

Briefly it can be explained here that moderate is an adjective, a derivative of the word moderation, which means not excessive or moderate. In Indonesian, this word was then absorbed into moderation, which in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) is defined as reducing violence, or avoiding extremes.

Based on research findings, the following is an analysis of the implementation of religious moderation and the development of the character of tolerance at the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School which is used as a reference for research information.

Grounding the values of religious moderation is an important part of the institutional existence of Islamic boarding schools. As an indigenous Indonesian Islamic educational institution (indigenous), Islamic boarding schools have made a real contribution in shaping Islamic civilization (*ats-saqofah al-Islamiyah*) through building a comprehensive and contextual understanding of

Islam in realizing the principles of ummatan wasathan for national and state life.

**Religious Moderation in the Curriculum.** The curriculum at the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School emphasizes the importance of a moderate understanding of religion. Islamic boarding school caregivers integrate Islamic teachings which prioritize a balance between personal worship and social interaction. This Islamic boarding school teaches students to not only understand religious teachings in a theological context, but also in an inclusive and tolerant social context.

**Integration of Rahmatan Lil-Alamin's Islamic Teachings.** The Islamic teachings of rahmatan lil-'alamin are integrated into various subjects, both in classical studies such as fiqh and tafsir, as well as in social and community activities. Islamic boarding schools teach the importance of mutual respect for each other, despite different religions and backgrounds. Programs such as interfaith dialogue and social cooperation are also part of the curriculum to strengthen the message of peace and tolerance.

The role of Islamic boarding schools must be restored as religious educational institutions which are expected to play a role in educating and awakening the morality of the people. Islamic boarding schools must make young cadres increasingly understand religion as an element of social transformation and public civility. Not only that, they are also expected to become community organizers, where their alumni can be involved in empowering the people.

**Development of the Character of Tolerance.** The character of tolerance among Islamic boarding school students develops through direct learning and example from Islamic boarding school teachers and caregivers. Programs such as social activities, as well as leadership training based on peaceful values, are important means of fostering mutual respect and coexistence with religious differences.

**Impact on Attitudes of Tolerance,** The results of the research show that the students of the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School tend to have a high attitude of tolerance towards religious and cultural differences. This is reflected in their active participation in interfaith activities and their attitude towards daily life which is more inclusive and peaceful.

### **Islam Rahmatan Lil'alamin**

Understanding Islam Rahmatan Lil'Alamin

The term "Rahmatan Lil'Alamin" comes from Surah Al-Anbiya' verse 107, which reads:

"Wa ma'arsalnaka illa rahmatan lil'alamin"

(وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ)

The translation is, "And We did not send you (Muhammad) but as a mercy for all the worlds."

The Islamic term rahmatan lil'alamin has always been an interesting topic to discuss in the academic world. Because this concept confirms to all of us that Islam is full of love (mercy) and not full of hatred (curse), this concept will also bring the world atmosphere to a more peaceful and stable state, there will be no bloodshed, colonialism, let alone genocide. majority over minorities.

The concept of rahmatan lil'alamin shows that Islamic teachings are teachings that are full of love, peace and safety for all mankind, without distinction of race, religion or social background. Islam is expected to bring peace and goodness to all creatures, both humans and the universe as a whole. This

concept teaches Muslims to behave fairly, respect each other, maintain peace, and create a harmonious society.

### **The Role of Islamic Boarding Schools in the Implementation of Islam Rahmatan Lil'Alamin**

The Islamic term rahmatan lil'alam in has always been an interesting topic to discuss in the academic world. Because this concept confirms to all of us that Islam is full of love (mercy) and not full of hatred (curse), this concept will also bring a more peaceful and stable world atmosphere, there will be no bloodshed, colonialism, let alone genocide. The majority versus the minority are individuals who have character and a Muslim personality that is rahmatan lil'alam in.

The Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School in East Kutai, as part of a traditional Islamic educational institution, has a big influence in shaping students' understanding of Islamic teachings which bring grace to all of nature. At this Islamic boarding school, the Islamic teachings of rahmatan lil'alam in are translated into various aspects of life, from religious learning, moral teaching, to relationships between fellow boarding school members and the outside community.

### **Approach to Religious Moderation at the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School**

Pendekatan moderasi beragama di Pesantren Syaichona Cholil Kutai Timur is one concrete example of the application of Islamic teachings rahmatan lil'alam in in the context of daily life in Islamic boarding schools. Religious moderation here is intended as an effort to understand and practice Islamic teachings in a balanced way, not to extremes, and still respecting diversity. This approach focuses on values such as:

**Tolerance:** The Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School teaches the importance of tolerance between people, both between Muslims and with people of other religions. This includes respect for other people's beliefs, as well as the development of mutual respect and understanding. **Social harmony:** Santri are taught not only to focus on their own interests, but also to build and maintain harmony in society. They are given an understanding of the importance of coexisting with various groups and individuals from different backgrounds.

**Modesty and wisdom:** Moderate Islamic teachings emphasize the importance of being wise in acting and speaking, as well as avoiding extreme attitudes that could damage peace. **Concern for the environment:** Remembering that mercy lil'alam in covers all of nature, this Islamic boarding school also instills a sense of love for nature and the surrounding environment, and teaches students to be environmental protectors.

### **Rahmatan Lil'Alamin's Islamic Teaching in the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School Curriculum**

At the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School, the Islamic teachings of rahmatan lil'alam in are combined with a curriculum that teaches these values practically in everyday life. Several approaches implemented in the Islamic boarding school curriculum are: **Teaching Aqidah and Morals:** Santri are taught to internalize moderate Islamic beliefs, namely beliefs that prioritize peace and togetherness, not beliefs that divide. Apart from that, the morals taught are morals that respect the rights and dignity of other people, and avoid violence and hostility.

**Interfaith Dialogue:** This Islamic boarding school also opens up space for dialogue between santri and people of other religions. This teaches students to be more open and accepting of differences in social and religious life, as well as

strengthening relations between religious communities. Tolerant Character Development Practices: A number of activities outside formal learning, such as discussions, character development, and social activities, are used to foster tolerant and moderate attitudes among students. In this activity, students are involved in sharing, working together and building togetherness without looking at differences in background.

### **Challenges and Prospects for Implementing Rahmatan Lil'Alamin Islam at the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School**

Even though there are many positive values implemented, the implementation of Islamic teachings rahmatan lil'amin in Islamic boarding schools is not without challenges. Some of the challenges you may face are:

- Differences in interpretation: There may be differences in understanding regarding religious moderation among ulama or Islamic boarding school caregivers. This can influence the extent to which Islamic teachings rahmatan lil'amin are accepted and applied by students.
- Surrounding social and cultural influences: The social environment which sometimes has conservatism or even radicalization of thoughts can influence the way students view Islamic teachings in a more moderate and inclusive way.
- Increasing overall understanding of religion: So that the Islamic teachings of rahmatan lil'amin can be well received, continuous efforts are needed to improve the quality of deeper religious teaching, while avoiding narrow and dogmatic understanding.

However, the prospects for developing these values remain very large, especially in creating a generation that is better prepared to live in a plural and multicultural society. Islamic boarding schools such as Syaichona Cholil have the potential to become models for teaching religious moderation and developing tolerant character among students.

The implementation of Rahmatan Lil'Alamin's Islamic teachings at the Syaichona Cholil East Kutai Islamic Boarding School is a real effort to teach students about the importance of living side by side peacefully, respecting differences, and maintaining social harmony. With a balanced approach to religious moderation and based on the values of love, peace and tolerance, this Islamic boarding school plays an important role in forming the character of students who are not only knowledgeable, but also have noble character, ready to become agents of change in a more peaceful and peaceful society. inclusive.

### **Tolerant Character Development**

In general, the values contained in local wisdom experience degradation along with the progress of the times which are marked by the development of science and technology. The success of development in the welfare aspect in the economic sector and progress in the education sector along with advances in science and technology have a big influence on the mindset and attitude of life in society.

Developing the character of tolerance in Islamic boarding schools, especially at the Syaichona Cholil East Kutai Islamic Boarding School, has a very important role in creating a generation that can live in harmony in a plural and multicultural society. Tolerance as part of character development is very much needed in Indonesia, which has religious, ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity. Therefore, Islamic boarding schools that are known for their values of moderation and inclusiveness, such as the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School, play a major role in forming the character of students who respect

differences and are able to establish peaceful relationships with various social groups.

Tolerance in the Islamic context refers to the attitude of accepting and respecting differences, whether in terms of religion, culture or views. Islam as a religion of rahmatan lil-alamin (grace for all nature) emphasizes that Muslims must live side by side with compassion, respect human rights, and respect differences in religion and belief. This teaching is reflected in the behavior of the Prophet Muhammad SAW who always prioritized the principles of peace, mutual respect and sharing love with humanity.

In Islamic boarding schools, tolerance character education is integrated into a curriculum that not only teaches religious knowledge, but also prioritizes ethical and social values. At the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School, tolerance is taught as part of the character formation of students who not only focus on religious aspects, but also on broader social aspects.

### **Tolerance Character Development Strategy at the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School**

The Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School develops the character of tolerance through various methods that are integrated into daily life at the Islamic boarding school. Some of the main strategies implemented include:

- a. Integration of Tolerance Values in the Education Curriculum. At the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School, the values of tolerance are taught through lessons in religion, morals and Islamic history. Apart from that, teaching about religious and cultural pluralism is taught with a moderate approach, where students are given an understanding of the importance of respecting differences in religion and belief. Santri are encouraged to see differences as part of God's will that must be accepted and respected.
- b. Interreligious and Cultural Dialogue. This Islamic boarding school also encourages students to be involved in cross-religious and cultural dialogue activities. This activity aims to open students' insight into the diversity that exists in society. Through dialogue, students are expected to be able to practice tolerance by sharing views and mutual respect between religious communities, as well as strengthening relations between Islamic boarding schools and the surrounding community who may have different religious backgrounds.
- c. Character Development Through Social Activities and Living Together. The Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School instills the values of tolerance through daily life in the dormitory. Students are taught to respect each other, share and work together regardless of background. This development includes an attitude of respecting the rights of others, as well as getting used to working together in social activities, both within the Islamic boarding school and outside the Islamic boarding school.
- d. Community Service Activities. One way this Islamic boarding school teaches the character of tolerance is through community service activities that involve various elements of society from various backgrounds. This service activity does not only take the form of religious teaching, but also includes social activities such as social service, environmental service, and other activities that bring the Islamic boarding school closer to the wider community. Through this activity, students are expected to learn to interact with people from various religions and cultures with an attitude of mutual respect.
- e. Teaching about Inclusive Islamic History. Students at the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School are given a deep understanding of the history of

inclusive and moderate Islam. The teachings of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, who always prioritized tolerance, peace and mutual respect, were taught as an example to follow in his footsteps in everyday life. The history of Islam, which emphasizes the principle of human brotherhood, is an important foundation in developing the character of tolerant students.

- f. The Role of Islamic Boarding School Caregivers and Administrators in Forming the Character of Tolerance. Behind developing the character of tolerance at the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School, the role of Islamic boarding school caregivers is very important. As role models, Islamic boarding school caregivers must be able to demonstrate an attitude of tolerance in everyday life, both in interacting with fellow caregivers, students and the surrounding community. Islamic boarding school caregivers not only teach theory, but also apply the principles of tolerance in daily actions, such as:
  - g. Be an example in maintaining good relations with fellow religious communities. Encourage discussion and learning about diversity, both religion and culture. Inviting students to take part in social activities involving various elements of society. With the example of their caregivers, it will be easier for students to absorb the values of tolerance and instill them in their lives.
  - h. Challenges and Prospects for Developing the Character of Tolerance at the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School. Even though many positive efforts have been made, developing the character of tolerance in Islamic boarding schools also faces several challenges, including:
    - 1) Influence of the Social Environment. Some santri may come from areas with more conservative religious views, which may influence their attitudes towards values of moderation and tolerance. Therefore, there is a need for strengthening within Islamic boarding schools to maintain the stability of the values that have been taught.
    - 2) Different Understanding of Tolerance. Among students, there may be differences in understanding about the meaning of tolerance, so it is important to continue to provide deeper education regarding the importance of mutual respect and peaceful coexistence.

However, the prospects for developing the character of tolerance at the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School are very large. With a moderate approach, education based on Islamic values that are rahmatan lil'amin, and activities that involve the community, this Islamic boarding school has the opportunity to be an example in creating a generation that is not only knowledgeable, but also has noble character and is able to build harmonious relationships in a society that plural.

Developing the character of tolerance at the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School, East Kutai is one part of the effort to instill the Islamic values of rahmatan lil'amin which are moderate, inclusive and full of compassion. By integrating tolerance education into the curriculum, daily life at the Islamic boarding school, and social activities, this Islamic boarding school plays an important role in forming a generation that respects differences, lives side by side peacefully, and maintains social harmony. Even though there are challenges, the prospects for developing this character of tolerance are very large, which can have a positive impact both within Islamic boarding schools and in wider society.

**Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School, East Kutai**

Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School is an Islamic educational institution located in East Kutai Regency, East Kalimantan Province. This Islamic boarding school is known as one of the Islamic boarding schools that has a moderate approach and is committed to teaching Islamic teachings that are rahmatan lil'alam, namely Islam that brings peace and compassion to all mankind regardless of differences. The name Syaichona Cholil refers to a great cleric, Sheikh Cholil, who is an important figure in the history of the development of Islam in Indonesia, especially in the Islamic boarding school tradition.

1. This Islamic boarding school focuses on Islamic religious education with a curriculum that not only teaches religious knowledge, but also develops the character of students so that they become individuals who are tolerant, have noble character, and are able to live side by side with diverse communities.
2. History and Development of the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School. The Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School was founded by ulama and religious figures who had a vision to form a generation of moderate, intellectual and tolerant Muslims. Since its inception, this Islamic boarding school has aimed to educate students by prioritizing an understanding of Islam that is peaceful, open and respectful of differences. By using an approach based on the Salaf (classical) tradition which teaches religious knowledge comprehensively, the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School also tries to prepare students to be able to contribute to a plural and diverse society.
3. This Islamic boarding school has many branches in several areas, but the main campus is in East Kutai, East Kalimantan. This location is strategic because it is in the middle of an area that has ethnic and religious diversity, providing challenges and opportunities for Islamic boarding schools to teach the values of religious tolerance and moderation.
4. Vision and Mission of the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School,  
Vision: The Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School aims to produce the next generation who not only master religious knowledge, but also have strong character, noble character, and are able to live side by side with tolerance in a pluralistic society.  
Mission:
  - Educate students with a moderate and tolerant understanding of Islam.
  - Teaches noble moral values and a sense of social responsibility.
  - Preparing students to become agents of change who can improve social and religious life in society.
  - Fostering a spirit to maintain peace, respect differences, and build harmonious relationships with other religious communities.
5. Education and Curriculum at the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School. The Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School combines traditional religious education with general education, and emphasizes teaching based on the values of moderation. The curriculum at this Islamic boarding school covers various fields of study, both in the context of Islamic religious knowledge (such as fiqh, tafsir, hadith, aqidah, and Sufism) as well as general knowledge needed in modern life.
6. Religious Education. Santri are taught religious knowledge in depth by prioritizing Ahlussunnah wal Jamaah fiqh, which is moderate and inclusive. This aims to equip students with an understanding of Islam that is not only

ritualistic in nature, but also includes teaching morals, ethics and peace in social life.

7. Character Development. Apart from aspects of religious knowledge, this Islamic boarding school also focuses on building the character of students, such as tolerance, peace, empathy and social sensitivity. These characters are strengthened through daily activities, both in the dormitory and in interactions with the surrounding community.
8. An inclusive and tolerant educational approach. The Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School applies an inclusive educational approach, where students are taught to respect and accept differences. In this case, this Islamic boarding school views diversity as a gift that must be protected and preserved, not as something that triggers division.
9. Social Activities and Community Service. Apart from formal education, Islamic boarding schools are also active in social activities, such as social service and religious teaching for the community. This activity not only teaches students about the importance of sharing, but also provides the opportunity to interact with people from various backgrounds.
10. The influence of the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School on the East Kutai Community. The Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School plays an important role in building a more harmonious and tolerant society, especially in East Kutai Regency, which has ethnic and religious diversity. It is hoped that students who graduate from this Islamic boarding school can become agents of change who bring the values of religious moderation, peace and mutual respect to society.

The existence of this Islamic boarding school also has a positive impact in increasing public awareness of the importance of moderate and inclusive religious education, as well as the need to maintain harmony between religious communities. The Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School is an example of how Islamic religious educational institutions can play an active role in maintaining peace and social harmony amidst diversity. Challenges and Prospects of the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School. The Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School, although it has played a major role in teaching the values of tolerance and moderation, still faces challenges in maintaining the relevance and quality of its education amidst increasingly complex developments. Some of the challenges faced include:

External influences: Islamic boarding schools must maintain the values of religious moderation amidst the influence of extremism that may enter society. Therefore, Islamic boarding schools must continue to strengthen the understanding and practice of moderate Islamic teachings. Technology-Based Education: Along with the rapid development of technology, Islamic boarding schools also need to adopt technology-based learning methods to facilitate access to education for students. However, with high enthusiasm to produce a generation that is tolerant, has noble character and knowledge, the prospects for the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School to continue to develop are very wide open. This Islamic boarding school has the potential to continue to expand its impact, not only in East Kutai, but also throughout Indonesia.

The Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School in East Kutai is an educational institution that has a strategic role in developing the character of tolerance among students. With a moderate educational approach and based on the Islamic values of rahmatan lil'alam, this Islamic boarding school is



an important example for other Islamic boarding schools in forming a generation that is able to live side by side peacefully and respect differences. Through an inclusive curriculum, social activities and sustainable character development, the Syaichona Cholil Islamic Boarding School is committed to forming students who are not only knowledgeable, but also have noble character and can make a positive contribution to society.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

This study uses a qualitative approach with a case study method. The research location is Syaichona Cholil Pesantren in East Kutai. Data was collected through the following methods: In-depth Interviews: Interviews with the pesantren leadership, teachers, and students regarding the implementation of religious moderation in the pesantren curriculum. Observation: Direct observation of the teaching process and activities at the Islamic boarding school related to the development of tolerance character. Documentation: Analysis of pesantren curriculum documents and teaching materials used to explore how the teachings of rahmatan lil-'alamin are implemented.

This approach helps to gain a comprehensive understanding of how religious moderation and tolerance are integrated into the educational framework at Syaichona Cholil Pesantren.

## **CONCLUSION**

The findings of this study reveal that the integration of moderate religious values into the curriculum of Pesantren Syaichona Cholil Kutai Timur has yielded positive results. The teachings of Islam as a mercy to all creation, which emphasize peace, compassion, and respect for differences, have been successfully internalized by students through various learning activities and social interactions. This is evident in the high level of tolerance exhibited by students in their interactions with individuals from diverse backgrounds. Consequently, the pesantren has not only served as an institution of religious education but also as a platform for shaping a generation of young people who can live harmoniously in a pluralistic society.

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