

## Inclusive Village Development Through Religious Moderation: Promoting Local Cultures as A Global Values

**Dian Herdiana**

Faculty of Sharia and Law, UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung

\*Corresponding author. Email: [dianherdiana@uinsgd.ac.id](mailto:dianherdiana@uinsgd.ac.id)

### ABSTRACT

This article is intended to analyze inclusive village development in which religious moderation is not only used as the basis for compiling and implementing development that accommodates differences in beliefs at the village level but also used as one of the pillars of overall development success. This concept is the essential value of contemporary village development, which not only represents the aspirations of village community members but also accommodates the interests of every member of the village community with different beliefs. Based on this understanding, religious moderation is a condition for village development in which today's society is developing to become heterogeneous. Religious moderation guarantees accommodation for various village development programs aimed at the interests of all village communities. This concept should be understood as a paradigm not only at the national level but at the global level, which so far has constructed society as a determinant of the direction of development policy; the community does not only agree on the development program as a concession but also as an accommodation for the heterogeneity of adhered beliefs in which development represents these differences in beliefs and can provide development benefits for all members of the community. It should be promoted as a relevant local value to become a global paradigm.

**Keywords:** *Inclusive Development, Religious Moderation, Village Communities*

### INTRODUCTION

The village represents the character of Indonesian culture, where people live in harmony and respect each other's differences. Village communities are known as people with friendly characters and good social solidarity. This character becomes social capital, which later becomes one of the drivers of better village development (Angkasawati, 2015; Nadir, 2013).

The village, along with the times, began to accept foreign cultural values; where these values do not always have a positive impact on people's lives but also become a source of social conflict, the implications of intolerance are one of the foreign values that pose a serious threat to community harmony and become a threat to the success of the development that is currently being implemented (Agusta, 2007; Sudarwo, 2012; Sufarni, 2019).

The government has made various efforts to build a harmonious life in the village, one of which is to strengthen the values of tolerance, openness and respect for religious beliefs. This concept in the current context is known as the terminology of religious moderation, where the behaviour shown is an attitude that respects existing differences (Abdilah, 2019; Pokja Moderasi Beragama Kementerian Agama RI, 2020). Moderation in the village context is promoted not only in the context of community life but also in the context of village development, where religious moderation values are applied in the entire village development process that is being carried out (Saifuddin, 2019).

The values of religious moderation in the context of village development are adopted in two ways: First, encouraging the involvement of all community members to be involved in the village development process. Second, adopting the values of religious moderation into various village development programs. Both of these methods are believed to be able to realize inclusive village development where every community member can live in harmony in the village development process that is being carried out, and village communities can also enjoy the benefits of village development fairly and proportionally regardless of community background.

Village development that is tolerant and based on religious moderation is considered successful in creating a harmonious life for the village community, it is proof that religious moderation, which has long been part of the village community, is capable of becoming local values that drive the success of village development, so it needs to be further developed so that it can be generalized in regional development and national development, to be able to realize inclusive development at various levels based on the values of religious moderation.

The success of inclusive village development in which the value of religious moderation is used as part of village development should be used as an example of a village development model that is not only able to involve all members of the community from various backgrounds but also can benefit every member of the community without exception. This village development model should be promoted at the national and international levels as a village development model based on local culture in Indonesia, which can be applied in various countries that want to build inclusive village development.

Based on the description above, this article is intended to describe the process of inclusive village development in Indonesia, where the value of religious moderation is used as part of the village development process and is one of the factors for the success of this development. Furthermore, this article also describes the efforts that should be carried out by the government of Indonesia to promote the development of inclusive villages based on religious moderation at the global level and is expected to be implemented in various countries.

## **METHODS**

The method used in this study is qualitative, in which data is presented in the form of narrative descriptions, not in the statistical calculation results. It aligns with the experts' understanding that in qualitative research, the data presented is narrative-descriptive (Moleong, 2017). The data used in this study are secondary data from books, journal articles and other documents relevant to the research topic. Data derived from secondary data will be analyzed in three stages: check, recheck and cross-check to obtain valid data to justify the analysis results.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The analysis of adopting religious moderation values as a form of village development that is inclusive and relevant to be promoted internationally in this paper is divided into three main parts: First, the essential value of religious moderation in village development. Second, religious moderation is a local value that needs to be

promoted globally. Third, the government's efforts need to be made to promote the value of religious moderation at the international level. The three descriptions in detail can be explained as follows:

#### **A. The Important Value of Religious Moderation in Village Development**

In the Indonesian context, the village is a local government structure with the authority to organize government and development independently. The village law states that the village government conducts village development with the community. In this context, two parties will be involved in the development, namely the village government and the community, and these two parties should have the same goal of building a better village (Ian, 2017; Kushandajani, 2015).

The village development process will only run well if the relationship between the village government and the village community is carried out in a harmonious environment in which there is no social conflict between fellow community members or between the community and the village government. Based on this, values are needed to create a harmonious environment in the village, where one of the values is religious moderation.

Religious moderation is essential because it will create a society that is tolerant and mutually respectful of differences, starting from differences in background, ancestry, and livelihoods to differences in religion. Suppose religious moderation is applied within the village community. In that case, it will not only create a harmonious life in the community. Still, it will also make inclusive village development where every community member has the same right to participate in development and the same right to enjoy the benefits of development. Based on this understanding, religious moderation is essential to be adopted in village development, which is based, among other things, on the following reasons:

First, the village grows into an increasingly heterogeneous society that requires mutual respect between communities. The existence of this heterogeneity, if it is not balanced with the attitudes and behaviour of tolerant members of society, it will give rise to social conflict. On this basis, religious moderation becomes essential not only to create a harmonious society but also to realize the smooth development of the village that is being carried out.

Second, the village needs a similar value that can unite all differences, and this is based on the condition of the village, which along with the times, has become a heterogeneous society, so that a value that will unite the community members will be needed in the village development process, religious moderation as a value that upholds religious tolerance will be needed to build religious harmony in the village, with religious harmony it will make it easier to achieve the development goals that have been aspired together.

Third, villages need social capital. Village development requires social capital to be successful; this social capital includes cooperation, deliberations, and high social awareness. This social capital will not be realized if the community members do not have a tolerant attitude and accept differences. Based on this, religious moderation is necessary to realize social capital in village communities so that social capital appears based on tolerance and respect for each other's differences.

Based on the description above, religious moderation answers the current demands for inclusive village development, where village communities are developing into increasingly heterogeneous societies. On the one hand, there is a need for values that can unite all existing differences to build a village jointly so that village development is the right and obligation of all community members, and all community members must enjoy development; the value of religious moderation is a value that is understood and practised by all community members in the context of village development.

### **B. Religious Moderation As A Local Values To Be Promoted At The Global Level**

Village development based on the value of religious moderation is a characteristic of Indonesia, where values of tolerance, mutual respect and acceptance of differences in beliefs that exist among community members are part of people's lives; therefore, the values of religious moderation need to be promoted not only in national level but at international level so that the international world knows the goodness of the values of religious moderation when adopted in development. There are at least three reasons why the moderation of religion adopted in village development is a value that deserves to be promoted at the international level, namely:

First, the value of diversity. Indonesia is a heterogeneous country of ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds, but this diversity is used as a unifying tool to make Indonesia a harmonious country of various backgrounds (Astawa, 2016; Latief et al., 2015). Behaviour that adopts religious moderation is one of the nation's unifying media. In contrast, accepting and making differences not a source of social conflict makes Indonesia still exist today. The behaviour of accepting diversity and making diversity a unifying tool for the nation is a value that should be not only proud of but also worth disseminating so that many countries will have the same understanding that differences do not exist as a dividing medium, but as a uniqueness and a means to unite one another.

Second, values that have been proven across various eras can unite diversity. The Indonesian nation has shown the value of tolerance and acceptance of differences in the past; even the value of unity in difference has become one of the keys to Indonesian independence (AM & Lestariningsih, 2017; Nahak, 2019). These values have been tested for a long time and remain relevant as a medium to unite the Indonesian nation. Therefore, it is essential to be promoted internationally as one of the unifying pillars.

Third, values that are considered relevant and universal. The value of religious moderation is a relevant value to apply at this time when differences arise in society, which, if not appropriately managed, will become a source of social conflict; religious moderation is also a universal value where inclusive development is a feature of modern development (Abdilah, 2019; Kementerian Agama RI, 2019). Thus, adopting religious moderation in village development becomes relevant for being maintained and promoted internationally because it has universal values.

Based on the three reasons explained above, the value of religious moderation adopted in inclusive village development is relevant to global values, which are equality between citizens in the development and the right of people to be able to participate in

and receive benefits from development regardless of background and religious belief becomes a global value whose truth is agreed upon to be applied in various countries.

### **C. Government Actions to Promote Inclusive Village Development Through Religious Moderation**

Religious moderation as a value adopted and capable of realizing inclusive village development should be maintained, developed, and promoted at various levels, including the international level. The hope is that it will become a universal value applied in various countries. Efforts to promote religious moderation at the international level prove that Indonesia has been able to build development based on religious moderation, which creates development results that can be enjoyed by every member of society from various backgrounds.

Efforts that need to be made by the government as a form of promotion at the international level can be made in three ways: First, conducting scientific research and publishing both in the form of books and articles published in national journals and international journals. It is done to provide scientific support for efforts to develop an inclusive village development model based on religious moderation. Scientific support is needed to convince stakeholders that this village development model has advantages and is feasible to implement in various regions. With support in the form of scientific research, stakeholders have a scientific basis so that later it will facilitate measuring the level of success in implementing religious moderation-based inclusive village development. In the international context, the results of various research studies will provide an overview of the inclusive village development model based on religious moderation scientifically so that it has a solid basis for considering this village development model to be adopted in their respective countries.

Second, organizing various national and international activities to promote inclusive village development based on religious moderation is like domestic and international exhibitions and seminars. Scientific exhibitions and seminars are a form of promotion in which many national and international stakeholders will attend this activity. There are at least two advantages of holding exhibitions and seminars: First, the stakeholders present will know the description of the model of inclusive village development based on religious moderation. Second, stakeholders will hold discussions and provide input for developing an inclusive village development model based on religious moderation to implement it even better in the future. These two advantages should be appropriately managed as capital to promote an inclusive village development model based on religious moderation to be considered for adoption in various countries.

Third, establishing relations between countries at both regional and international levels. The next step that needs to be taken by the government is to collaborate with a government-to-government scheme in which, in this context, the government directly promotes the development of inclusive villages based on religious moderation to the destination countries or countries which according to the government's understanding will accept this village development model, and will implement it, so that this effort will be directly followed up with agreements, both agreements between countries, or other agreements at the regional and international

levels, with a government-to-government scheme, it is hoped that many countries will adopt inclusive village development based on the values of religious moderation.

The three efforts that the government should make to promote inclusive village development based on the values of religious moderation are expected to be able to introduce religious moderation to the international level as local values of the Indonesian nation that are relevant to the current development context and worthy of being adopted in village development in various regions. It is to realize inclusive village development and provide many benefits for the community, the government and other stakeholders.

### CONCLUSION

As a unit inhabited by various community members from different backgrounds who live in harmony, the village has realized inclusive development in which religious moderation values become part of the development process. Village development has been able to create development benefits for all members of the community regardless of their ancestry and religious background. It is proof that the values of religious moderation that have long existed in the village reinforce local values capable of realizing inclusive development.

Village efforts that are capable of realizing inclusive village development should not only be adopted at the regional and national development levels but should also be promoted at the international level as local values that various countries can adopt as an effort to build inclusive village development. The government carried out this promotion to show the international community that Indonesia has succeeded in realizing village development based on the value of religious moderation, which benefits both the community and the overall development results.

### REFERENCES

- Abdilah, M. (2019). Moderasi Beragama untuk Indonesia yang Damai. *Seminar Nasional Instititut Agama Hindu Negeri Tampung Penyang Palangka Raya*, 35.
- Agusta, I. (2007). Indonesia dalam Pertautan Budaya Pembangunan dan Budaya Warga Desa. *Jurnal Wacana*, 9(2), 135–153.
- AM, S., & Lestariningsih, A. D. (2017). *Sejarah Indonesia*. Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan.
- Angkasawati. (2015). Masyarakat Desa. *Jurnal Publiciana*, 8(1), 1–23.
- Astawa, I. N. T. (2016). Fungsi dan Peran Keragaman Sosial Budaya dalam Pembangunan Nasional. *Pangkaja: Jurnal Agama Hindu*, 19(1), 52–58.
- Ian, A. (2017). Undang-Undang Desa Sebagai Legitimasi Desa (Desa Dalam Hukum Ketatanegaraan Indonesia). *Jurnal Ilmu Hukum*, 1(1), 46–62.
- Kementerian Agama RI. (2019). *Tanya Jawab Moderasi Beragama*. Badan Litbang dan Diklat Kementerian Agama RI.
- Kushandajani. (2015). Implikasi Undang-Undang Nomor 6 Tahun 2014 Tentang Desa Terhadap Kewenangan Desa. *Jurnal Yustisia*, 4(2), 369–396.
- Latief, Y., Suryanto, A., & Muslim, A. A. (2015). “NASIONALISME” Modul Pendidikan dan Pelatihan Prajabatan Golongan I dan II. Lembaga Administrasi Negara Republik Indonesia. <http://pusdikmin.com/perpus/file/nasionalisme2-min.pdf>



- Moleong, L. J. (2017). *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif (Edisi Revisi)*. PT. Remaja Rosda Karya.
- Nadir, S. (2013). Otonomi Daerah dan Desentralisasi Desa : Menuju Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Desa. *Jurnal Politik Profetik*, 1(1).
- Nahak, H. M. I. (2019). Upaya Melestarikan Budaya Indonesia di Era Globalisasi. *Jurnal Sosiologi Nusantara*, 5(1), 165–176.
- Pokja Moderasi Beragama Kementerian Agama RI. (2020). *Peta Jalan Penguatan Moderasi Beragama*. Kementerian Agama RI.
- Saifuddin, L. H. (2019). *Moderasi Beragama*. Kementerian Agama RI.
- Sudarwo, F. (2012). *Problematika Desa Dalam Konteks Pembangunan Dan Globalisasi*. Sekolah Tinggi Pembangunan Masyarakat Desa “APMD.” <http://stpmd.apmd.ac.id/problematika-desa-dalam-konteks-pembangunan-dan-globalisasi/>
- Sufarni, R. (2019). *Adaptasi Kultural Masyarakat Lokal Terhadap Budaya Asing (Studi Kasus di Desa Maudil, Kecamatan Teupah Barat, Kabupaten Simeulue)* [Universitas Islam Negeri Ar-Raniry]. [https://repository.ar-raniry.ac.id/id/eprint/8906/1/RETI\\_SUFARNI.pdf](https://repository.ar-raniry.ac.id/id/eprint/8906/1/RETI_SUFARNI.pdf)