

The Role of Community and Local Wisdom in Minimizing Islamic Fanaticism and Maintaining Islamic Culture in Masin Village

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Abstract. Religious fanaticism is one of the challenges in maintaining religious harmony in Indonesia. Masin Village, Batang Regency, Central Java, has local wisdom that can play a role in minimizing Islamic religious fanaticism and maintaining Islamic culture. This study aims to analyze the role of the community and local wisdom in facing the challenges of Islamic religious fanaticism and efforts to maintain Islamic culture in Masin Village. The research method used is a qualitative approach with a case study. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, observation, and documentation studies. The results showed that the people of Masin Village have a strong commitment to maintaining inter-religious harmony. Local wisdom such as the traditions of Earth Alms, Slametan, and Gotong Royong play an important role in minimizing Islamic religious fanaticism and maintaining a distinctive Islamic culture in the village. The conclusion of this research is that the active role of the community and the preservation of local wisdom are needed to maintain the balance between Islamic identity and religious harmony in Masin Village.

Keywords: Local Wisdom, Islamic Fanaticism, Islamic Culture, Masin Village Community.

1. BACKGROUND

The diversity of religions and cultures in Indonesia is both a gift and a challenge for society. One issue that often arises is the existence of religious fanaticism that can trigger conflict and intolerance. Religious fanaticism is characterized by a rigid, exclusive understanding, and tends to reject differences in other beliefs (Jamil, 2013). This can threaten religious harmony and social stability.

On the other hand, Indonesian society also has local wisdom that can play a role in minimizing religious fanaticism and maintaining a distinctive religious culture in each region. Local wisdom is the noble values owned and applied by the local community as a guide in behaving and solving problems (Darmawan, 2016). This local wisdom is manifested in various forms, such as traditions, rituals, norms, and social activities.

Masin Village, Batang Regency, Central Java, is one of the villages that has religious diversity, but still maintains harmony. The people of Masin Village have local wisdom that plays an important role in minimizing Islamic fanaticism and maintaining a distinctive Islamic culture. Some examples of local wisdom in Masin Village are the traditions of Earth Alms, Slametan, and Gotong Royong.

The Sedekah Bumi tradition is a thanksgiving ritual performed by the Masin Village community after the harvest season. In this ritual, people gather to pray together, bring crops, and share with each other. This tradition serves as a medium to foster gratitude,

togetherness, and harmony among residents. Slametan is a religious ritual performed to commemorate important events in life, such as birth, marriage or death. In this ritual, people gather to pray and share food. The tradition of Gotong Royong is also still very strong in Masin Village, where residents help each other in community activities, such as village infrastructure development or other social activities.

This local wisdom can strengthen social ties, foster mutual respect, and minimize the potential for inter-religious conflict. The pluralistic community of Masin Village, consisting of various religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, is able to coexist peacefully. This shows that local wisdom has a significant role in fostering religious harmony.

In addition, local wisdom also plays a role in maintaining a distinctive Islamic culture in Masin Village. Although the majority of the population is Muslim, they have religious practices that are combined with local elements. For example, in the Slametan ritual, the community uses Islamic prayers accompanied by traditional food offerings. This shows the acculturation between Islamic teachings and local culture.

2. METHOD

This research aims to analyze the role of the community and local wisdom in facing the challenges of Islamic religious fanaticism and efforts to maintain Islamic culture in Masin Village. The results of this study are expected to contribute to understanding the dynamics of community religiosity and the importance of preserving local wisdom to maintain religious harmony.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results show that the people of Masin Village have a strong commitment to maintaining inter-religious harmony. Although the majority of the population is Muslim, they still respect the existence of other religions, such as Christianity and Hinduism. This is reflected in their mutual respect and assistance in various community activities.

The Role of Society in Minimizing Islamic Religious Fanaticism

One form of commitment from the Masin Village community is the regular interfaith dialog forum. This forum serves as a forum for religious leaders and community leaders to discuss issues of harmony, prevent potential conflicts, and find solutions together. In the forum, they share their understanding, experiences and perspectives on their respective religions. This helps to reduce exclusive and intolerant attitudes that can trigger religious fanaticism.

In addition, the people of Masin Village are also actively involved in interfaith social and religious activities. For example, during Eid al-Fitr celebrations, non-Muslims also visit and congratulate their Muslim neighbors. Similarly, during Christmas or Nyepi celebrations, Muslim residents also participate. This activity of visiting each other and celebrating the holidays of other religions builds a sense of mutual understanding and respect for differences.

In addition, the people of Masin Village also have high social sensitivity. When there is a disaster or difficulty that befalls a resident, they quickly provide assistance and support, regardless of religious background. This solidarity and sense of kinship is a strong social glue in Masin Village.

The community's efforts to minimize religious fanaticism can also be seen from their involvement in inclusive religious activities. For example, during the commemoration of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday, all residents participate, both Muslims and non-Muslims. They jointly participate in prayers, recitation of the Prophet's history, and other social events. Such activities help to instill an understanding that Islam is a religion that is rahmatan lil 'alamin (mercy for all nature), so that it can be accepted by all levels of society.

The Role of Local Wisdom in Minimizing Islamic Fanaticism



Figure 1. The Tradition of Earth Almsgiving, Slametan, and Gotong Royong

In addition to the active role of the community, local wisdom also has an important contribution in minimizing Islamic religious fanaticism in Masin Village. Some of the local wisdom that is still maintained and preserved by the local community is the tradition of Earth Alms, Slametan, and Gotong Royong.

The Sedekah Bumi tradition is a thanksgiving ritual performed by the Masin Village community after the harvest period. In this ritual, residents gather to pray together, bring crops such as fruits, vegetables, and traditional foods, and share with each other. This tradition is a medium to foster gratitude, togetherness, and harmony between residents, including between religious communities.

Through Sedekah Bumi, the people of Masin Village can express their gratitude to God for the abundance of crops. In addition, sharing and eating together also fosters empathy, solidarity and mutual respect among them. This can prevent the emergence of exclusive attitudes or religious fanaticism, as people learn to be open to each other and accept differences.

Another local wisdom that plays a role is the Slametan tradition. Slametan is a religious ritual performed to commemorate important events in life, such as birth, marriage or death. In this ritual, the people of Masin Village gather to pray and share food. Although this ritual is rooted in Javanese culture, in practice there is acculturation with Islamic teachings.

Slametan in Masin Village involves Islamic prayers led by a kyai or ustad. However, in the process there are also traditional Javanese food offerings. This shows the integration between Islamic values and local wisdom. This acculturation process creates a moderate and inclusive understanding of religion, so that it can be accepted by all levels of society, both Muslim and non-Muslim.

The tradition of Gotong Royong is also still very strong in Masin Village. In various community activities, such as village infrastructure development or other social activities, residents help each other. Gotong royong does not differentiate between religious background, ethnicity, or social status. All residents participate voluntarily for the common good.

This Gotong Royong tradition is a strong social glue in Masin Village. Through joint activities, people can get to know each other, understand and appreciate differences. This can reduce the potential for conflict and religious fanaticism, as people learn to work together and need each other.

The Role of Local Wisdom in Maintaining Islamic Culture



Figure 2. Slametan Ritual

In addition to minimizing religious fanaticism, local wisdom in Masin Village also plays an important role in maintaining a distinctive Islamic culture. Although the majority

of the population is Muslim, they have religious practices that are combined with local elements. One example is in the Slametan ritual. Although Slametan is rooted in Javanese culture, in practice there are Islamic prayers led by local kyai or ustad. In addition, traditional Javanese food is also an integral part of this ritual. This integration between Islamic teachings and local wisdom creates a distinctive and contextual Islamic expression in Masin Village.

The Sedekah Bumi tradition also shows an effort to maintain Islamic culture. In this ritual, people pray together using Islamic recitations, such as reading Surah Al-Fatihah, Yasin, or other prayers. However, they also include local elements, such as bringing crops, eating together, and sharing. This reflects the community's efforts to balance Islamic identity with local cultural wisdom. In addition, another religious practice that is still maintained in Masin Village is the Mauludan tradition or the commemoration of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday. In this celebration, residents gather to read the history of the Prophet, sing sholawat, and carry out social activities. However, in its implementation, they also include elements of local culture, such as traditional food dishes.

This effort to combine Islamic teachings with local wisdom creates a distinctive Islamic identity in Masin Village. The community not only carries out religious practices rigidly, but also tries to adapt them to the local cultural context. This helps them to maintain the Islamic culture that has become an integral part of the life of the people of Masin Village.

The local wisdom preserved by the people of Masin Village also plays a role in transmitting Islamic values to the younger generation. Through involvement in various traditions and rituals, children and young people can learn about Islamic teachings while understanding local cultural wisdom. The process of internalizing these values is expected to form a strong Islamic identity, while respecting cultural diversity.

In conclusion, the active role of the Masin Village community and the local wisdom that is preserved have important contributions in minimizing Islamic religious fanaticism and maintaining a distinctive Islamic culture. Through a commitment to maintaining harmony, involvement in interfaith activities, and the practice of local traditions that integrate Islamic values, the people of Masin Village are able to maintain a balance between Islamic identity and cultural diversity.

4. CONCLUSION

This research shows that the active role of the Masin Village community and the local wisdom that is preserved have an important contribution in minimizing Islamic religious fanaticism and maintaining a distinctive Islamic culture in the area.

The people of Masin Village have a strong commitment to maintaining inter-religious harmony. This is reflected in various efforts made, such as interfaith dialog forums, involvement in interfaith social and religious activities, as well as solidarity and a high sense of kinship. The community realizes the importance of respecting differences and not being exclusive or fanatical towards a particular religion.

Local wisdom that is still maintained in Masin Village, such as the traditions of Earth Alms, Slametan, and Gotong Royong, also plays an important role in minimizing Islamic religious fanaticism. These traditions are able to foster a sense of gratitude, togetherness, and mutual respect among residents, including between religious communities. Through the process of acculturation between Islamic teachings and local cultural elements, these traditions create a moderate and inclusive understanding of religion.

In addition to minimizing religious fanaticism, local wisdom also plays a role in maintaining a distinctive Islamic culture in Masin Village. Although the majority of the population is Muslim, they have religious practices that are combined with local elements. This can be seen in the traditions of Slametan, Sedekah Bumi, and Mauludan, which integrate Islamic teachings with local cultural wisdom.

This acculturation process creates a distinctive and contextualized Islamic identity in Masin Village. The community not only carries out religious practices rigidly, but also tries to adapt them to the local culture. This helps them to maintain the Islamic culture that has become an integral part of community life.

Through involvement in various traditions and rituals, children and youth in Masin Village can also learn about Islamic teachings while understanding the wisdom of local culture. The process of internalizing these values is expected to form a strong Islamic identity, while respecting cultural diversity.

Overall, this research shows that the active role of the community and the preservation of local wisdom are important factors in maintaining the balance between Islamic identity and religious harmony in Masin Village. The community's commitment to respecting differences, as well as the integration between Islamic teachings and local culture, has prevented the emergence of religious fanaticism that could threaten social harmony.

The findings of this study have important practical and theoretical implications. Practically, the results of this study can be used as a reference for local governments, religious leaders, and other stakeholders in developing strategies for fostering religious harmony based on local wisdom. Efforts to preserve local traditions and values that accommodate diversity can be an alternative in counteracting radicalism and religious fanaticism.

Theoretically, this research contributes to the study of sociology of religion and cultural anthropology. The research findings show that local wisdom has a significant role in shaping moderate and inclusive expressions of community religiosity. The integration between religious teachings and local culture can create a distinctive religious identity that is in accordance with the local socio-cultural context.

However, this research also has limitations, namely that it only focuses on one village as a case study. Therefore, further research is needed that compares the role of local wisdom in minimizing religious fanaticism in various regions in Indonesia. This can enrich the understanding of the dynamics of community religiosity and the importance of preserving local culture as social capital in building religious harmony.

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