



## Moderate Behavior And The Mission Of Religious Education In Students

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### Abstract

This research examines the importance of moderate behavior in the context of implementing religious education and how the mission of religious education can promote and realize this moderate attitude. Moderate behavior, characterized by a tolerant, inclusive and balanced attitude, is the key to creating social harmony in a diverse society. Religious education has a strategic role in shaping students' character so that they have a comprehensive understanding and are tolerant of differences. This research uses a qualitative approach with a literature study method to analyze various relevant literature. The aim of this research is to make religious education an infrastructure for developing students and can provide a moderate attitude so that a harmonious life can be created and respect for all differences is inevitable. The research results show that religious education that prioritizes the values of moderation can prevent radicalism and extremism and form a generation that values pluralism and peace. Implementation of an integrative curriculum and teaching that prioritizes dialogue and respect for diversity are effective strategies in achieving this goal. Thus, the mission of religious education that focuses on moderate behavior is not only important for individual development but also for maintaining social stability and harmony in a multicultural society.

**Keywords:** Moderate Behavior, Religious Education, Inclusivity

### 1. Introduction

In the midst of globalization and technological advances, world society is experiencing significant changes in various aspects of life. One of the impacts of this change is the increase in increasingly intense intercultural and interreligious interactions. This interaction, although bringing many positive benefits, also raises new challenges in the form of social friction, conflict, and intolerance. In the context of Indonesia, as a country with high religious and cultural diversity, this phenomenon is becoming increasingly relevant and requires serious attention. (Thadi, 2021). Moderate behavior is one important solution in overcoming this challenge. Moderation in religion is a middle attitude that avoids extremism, both in the form of radicalism and excessive secularism. Moderate behavior prioritizes tolerance, mutual respect, and respect for differences. However, in reality, there are still many individuals and groups who show intolerant attitudes and tend to be extreme in understanding and practicing religious teachings. (Liquin et al., 2020). In principle, religion teaches peace, compassion, and tolerance. However, there are times when religion is twisted and misused by certain individuals or groups to justify acts of violence. Interpretation of religious texts out of context is often the root of the problem. Verses that actually teach self-defense or that have a specific historical context are twisted to justify acts of violence in different situations. (Nugraha & Firmansyah, 2019). Lack of deep and moderate understanding of religious teachings can make individuals easily influenced by radical ideologies. Religious education that emphasizes tolerance, peace, and comprehensive understanding is very important to prevent radicalization. Religious education that emphasizes correct and contextual understanding of the values of religious teachings, as well as teaching the values of peace and tolerance, can change their behavior to moderate (Gunawan, 2023).

Religious education has a strategic role in shaping moderate behavior. The mission of religious education is not only limited to conveying theoretical religious teachings but must also include the formation of tolerant and inclusive character. Through correct religious education, students are expected to be able to understand and internalize the values of moderation and apply them in everyday life. Religious education plays an important role in shaping the character of individuals and society. In the context of diversity that exists in Indonesia, moderate religious education is the key to creating a harmonious and peaceful life (Isroani & Huda, 2022). However, the challenges faced in realizing this mission are not simple. The education system in Indonesia, both formal and informal, still faces various obstacles, including a less integrative curriculum, less effective teaching methods, and limited resources. Apart from that, the influence of the social environment, media, and other external factors also influences the formation of student behavior.



Therefore, in-depth studies are needed to understand how religious education can effectively promote moderate behavior. This research aims to explore the role of religious education in forming students' moderate character, identify existing obstacles, and formulate strategies and recommendations that can be implemented by educators and policymakers. Thus, it is hoped that the results of this research can make a real contribution in creating a more tolerant, inclusive, and harmonious society. (Umar Al Faruq & Dwi Noviani, 2021). Religious education not only teaches theological aspects but also instills high moral and ethical values. Through religious education, individuals are taught to have good character, such as honesty, tolerance, empathy, and respect for others. These values are very important to prevent extreme and intolerant attitudes. Through inclusive and moderate religious education, students can understand the diversity of religions and cultures that exist in society. With a deeper understanding of other religious beliefs and practices, students will be better able to appreciate and accept differences, and reduce prejudice and negative stereotypes. (Ikhwan et al., 2023). Religion teaches about the importance of justice and equality in treating fellow humans. Good religious education will emphasize the importance of respecting the rights of others and treating everyone fairly, regardless of religious, racial, or cultural background. Where one of the main goals of religious education is to prevent the spread of radical and extremist ideologies. By providing a correct understanding of religious teachings and emphasizing the importance of moderation, religious education can become a strong bulwark against the negative influence of these ideologies. (Sukatin et al., 2023).

In religious education, learning teaches the importance of caring for others and helping those in need. This attitude encourages the creation of social solidarity and togetherness in society. Students who are educated with moderate religious values will be more likely to be involved in positive social activities and support the development of an inclusive society. The values of Islamic teachings packaged in religious education must teach students to think critically and rationally. (Chamidi, 2021). With critical thinking skills, students will be better able to evaluate and assess the information they receive, including extreme ideologies or teachings. This will help them not to be easily influenced by radical views. Moderate religious education can be an important foundation for building a peaceful and harmonious society. Through religious education that is inclusive, tolerant, and based on universal moral values, we can create a generation that is wiser, more empathetic, and ready to live side by side in diversity.

## **2. Methodology**

A qualitative approach with research methods is an approach used in research to understand and explore social and human phenomena in depth. The qualitative approach in this research aims to understand in depth how religious education can present moderate attitudes among students. This approach emphasizes interpretation, understanding the context, and exploring the deep meaning of the phenomenon under study. A qualitative approach allows researchers to explore perspectives, experiences, and views from various relevant sources. (Lexy J. Moleong, 2019). Conduct in-depth analysis of collected literature to identify main themes, important concepts, and findings relevant to the research topic. This analysis includes an understanding of educational theories, religious moderation approaches, and religious education practices in various contexts. Interpret the results of the synthesis of findings and discuss them in the context of religious education in Indonesia. This discussion includes practical implications of research findings and recommendations for the development of religious education that is capable of instilling moderate attitudes. (Assyakurrohim et al., 2022). Qualitative data is collected through appropriate methods such as observation, interviews, and document analysis. Data collection is carried out until data saturation, that is, when additional data no longer provides new information. The collected data is analyzed through a systematic process, categorization, and identification of themes or patterns. Analysis is carried out continuously during the data collection process. To increase the credibility of research results, researchers use various data sources, methods, or theories to verify findings. (Ardiansyah et al., 2023).

## **3. Results and discussion**

The inability to appreciate differences in opinions, beliefs, and practices leads to discrimination and injustice against minority groups. Intolerance often leads to violence and unfair treatment against minority groups, whether in the form of physical, verbal, or discriminatory policies. Without moderate behavior, religious and ethnic differences can trigger prolonged conflict and damage the social order. Societies that are not moderate tend to lose solidarity, where cooperation and a sense of mutual assistance decrease drastically. Moderate behavior is an action or attitude that reflects balance, avoidance of extremism, and openness to different views and practices. This moderate attitude emphasizes the importance of tolerance, dialogue, and compromise in social, political, and religious interactions. Maintaining a balance between tradition and modernity, as well as between conservatism and progressivism. Moderate behavior is very important in social and state life.



Moderate behavior allows for dialogue, compromise, and mutual understanding between various groups with different backgrounds. This can prevent conflict and polarization in society. By emphasizing balance, tolerance, dialogue, and openness, moderate behavior can help create a more harmonious and peaceful society and promote inclusive and sustainable progress. (Saumantri, 2022). With a moderate attitude, it is easier for individuals and groups to work together and show solidarity. This is important for building strong and cohesive communities, emphasizing the importance of honest and open communication, where everyone can voice their opinion without fear of being judged. This is important for strengthening relationships between individuals and between groups. Moderation ensures that differences are resolved through peaceful means. By accepting different views and being open to new ideas, moderate behavior supports innovation and development in a variety of fields. Moderation also means taking balanced and wise steps in development, thereby creating long-term sustainability in economic, social, and environmental aspects. By prioritizing unity in diversity, moderate behavior strengthens the foundations of a country based on the principle of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* (diverse but still one). The absence of moderate behavior in society can give rise to various complex and interrelated problems. From extremism and intolerance to conflict and social injustice, all aspects of life can be negatively affected. Therefore, it is important to promote a moderate attitude that emphasizes balance, tolerance, dialogue, and openness in order to create a harmonious, stable, and just society.

Moderate behavior must also be integrated into learning so that moderate behavior is embedded in students. One way to do this is by including content that discusses the importance of moderation, tolerance, and pluralism. Integrating social, cultural, and religious issues that encourage moderate thinking. This material can include the history of moderation, moderate figures, and success stories of moderation in resolving conflicts. (Alimuddin et al., 2023). Integrating moderate behavior in learning is a long-term investment in creating a generation capable of living harmoniously in a diverse society. By developing a curriculum based on moderate values, using inclusive teaching methods, supporting extracurricular activities, creating a conducive school environment, and involving parents and the community, we can form students' characters who are tolerant, respect diversity, and are able to resolve conflicts in a peaceful way. Moderate behavior encourages people to dialogue openly and be tolerant of differences of opinion and belief. This helps reduce polarization and improve understanding between individuals or groups. By avoiding extreme attitudes, moderate behavior promotes a more inclusive and peaceful approach to solving social or political problems. This helps prevent conflicts that can divide society. By demonstrating a moderate attitude, individuals can build stronger social solidarity among various groups and communities. This creates a solid foundation for maintaining unity in society. Moderate behavior often prioritizes the values of justice and balance in various aspects of life, including in matters of public policy, relationships between individuals, and in society as a whole.

Using a moderate approach in facilitating class discussions helps avoid polarization and allows students to comfortably express their opinions without fear of being judged or ignored. A moderate stance underscores the importance of fairness in treating all students fairly. This includes providing equal opportunities to participate, learn, and develop in the learning environment. When conflict arises between students, moderation helps teachers to manage the conflict constructively. This involves problem-solving and mediation to reach a satisfactory solution for all parties. A moderate attitude strengthens positive relationships between students, teachers, and school staff. This creates an inclusive and supportive learning climate, where every individual feels valued and accepted. The integration of moderate behavior in learning is an important step to form students who are tolerant, fair, and able to live harmoniously in a diverse society. With the right strategies, such as inclusive curriculum development, use of active teaching methods, and teacher training, schools can become effective places for teaching and strengthening moderate values. This will help students not only in academic contexts but also in their social lives, preparing them to be good and responsible citizens. (Faruq & Noviani, 2016).

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN PREVENTING CONFLICT**

Religious education introduces universal values such as tolerance, mutual respect, justice, and peace. This helps shape attitudes and behaviors that respect diversity and reduce the potential for conflict. Through religious education, individuals gain a deeper understanding of other religions, reducing stereotypes and prejudice that can trigger conflict. (Masroer, 2018). Religious education materials often include effective communication skills, including active listening and speaking in a language that respects differences of opinion. This helps in dealing with conflicts peacefully. Religious education encourages the development of empathy for the views and experiences of others. This strengthens tolerance and openness to diversity of religious beliefs and practices. Through religious education, individuals are taught to understand the importance of unity and solidarity in society. This encourages them to cooperate and respect each other, reducing the possibility of conflict. Religious education has an important role in teaching universal values that include moral and ethical principles that can be widely applied.

Respect and accept differences in beliefs and cultures without imposing views or denigrating the values of others. Encourage peaceful conflict resolution and avoid violence in resolving differences. Religious education in learning



respects human dignity and promotes the common good and welfare. Encourage peaceful conflict resolution and avoid violence in resolving differences. Teaching universal values in religious education not only forms better individual character but also contributes to the formation of a more harmonious and peaceful society. This reflects the essence of religious education in preparing individuals to live in increasingly complex global diversity. Encourage peaceful conflict resolution and avoid violence in resolving differences (Raikhan & Moh. Nasrul Amin, 2023). Religious education has an important role in providing individuals with an understanding of various religions. By teaching the values of tolerance and respect for religious diversity. This helps individuals to understand that each religion has different beliefs, practices, and values but can coexist peacefully. Through religious education, individuals can understand the historical and cultural roots of various religions. This opens up insight into how these religions developed in a historical context and how they influenced social, cultural, and political life. Strengthening Religious Identity with Understanding Religious education helps individuals to strengthen their religious identity by understanding the teachings, practices, and values of the religion they adhere to. It also helps them understand how their religion contributes to their understanding of morality, ethics, and the purpose of life. By understanding other religions, individuals can more easily build harmonious relationships with adherents of other religions in society. This helps minimize interfaith tensions and promotes peaceful and meaningful religious life.

Religious education not only focuses on understanding and appreciating religious values, but also plays an important role in cultivating communication skills. Students are encouraged to express their views, listen to the opinions of others, and discuss religious and moral topics. This helps them develop public speaking skills, argue well, and respect other people's views. The study of religion often involves reading sacred texts, articles, and other literature. Students are also asked to write essays, reports, or personal reflections about their understanding. This activity improves critical reading and writing skills clearly and effectively. Religious education often involves presentations or lectures on specific topics. This gives students the opportunity to hone presentation skills, such as speaking confidently, using appropriate body language, and conveying messages clearly. Some religious education programs include structured debates in which students discuss controversial or ethical issues. This helps them learn to construct arguments, think critically, and communicate persuasively. Religious education also emphasizes the importance of empathy and managing emotions. Through learning about values such as compassion, honesty, and tolerance, students learn how to communicate with empathy and understand other people's feelings. Often, religious education teaches the values of compassion, kindness, and concern for others. For example, the Islamic religion has the concept of "Rahmatan lil Alamin" which means mercy for all nature, which emphasizes the importance of kindness and compassion for all creatures. Tales and narratives about religious figures who show empathy and concern for others are often used in religious education. These stories can inspire students to do the same in their own lives.

Many religious education programs include social and charitable activities, such as helping the less fortunate or participating in humanitarian causes. Taking part in activities like this helps students feel and understand the needs of others, so they become more empathetic with those around them. Inclusive and comprehensive religious education teaches various religions and cultures. This helps students understand and appreciate diversity and makes them more open to differences. Inviting students to think critically and reflectively about their own religious teachings and how those teachings can be applied in the wider world helps them become more open. It teaches them to question, find deeper understanding, and be open to new ideas. Well-designed religious education can be a highly effective tool for developing empathy and openness among students. This is not only important for their personal development but also for building a more harmonious and inclusive society. (Hidayatulloh & Saumantri, 2023). Teaching universal values in religious education not only forms better individual character but also contributes to the formation of a more harmonious and peaceful society. This reflects the essence of religious education in preparing individuals to live in increasingly complex global diversity. By implementing religious education that focuses on tolerance, empathy, and respect for differences, students can help create a more peaceful and harmonious environment, as well as prevent conflict in society.

### **ACHIEVING THE MISSION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ON MODERATE BEHAVIOR**

Religious education aims to instill deep religious values while promoting a balanced attitude in understanding and practicing religious teachings. This aims to enable students to avoid extremism and fanaticism. In learning, it encourages students to appreciate and accept differences in beliefs, cultures, and views of life. This is important for creating an inclusive and harmonious environment in a diverse society (Muhayati, 2021). Religious education instills universal values such as justice, humanity, and peace. This helps students understand the importance of upholding these values in their social interactions. Apart from that, religious education teaches students to think critically and reflectively about religious teachings so that they can understand them clearly and are relevant to everyday life. Students can develop empathy and concern for others. This attitude is important for building solidarity and cooperation in diverse societies.



Figure 1 Religious Moderation



Sumber <https://balitbangdiklat.kemendiknas.go.id/berita/menakar-moderasi-beragama-di-perguruan-tinggi>

This achievement can be seen from the increase in learning about moderate attitudes seen in students, where students show mutual respect and accept differences in beliefs. Students are able to explain the concepts of moderation, such as tolerance, openness, and balance. The ability to think critically and not get caught up in extremism or fanaticism. Students actively participate in interfaith activities that promote dialogue and mutual understanding. There is collaboration between religious communities in social and community projects. In learning, students can integrate case studies and literature that illustrate the values of moderation in the subject matter. Use learning methods such as group discussions, role playing, and collaborative projects to encourage students to think critically and work together. Students often hold debates and discussions that focus on conflict resolution and understanding between religious communities. The achievement of the mission of religious education in instilling moderate behavior in students can be seen from increasing tolerance, a deep understanding of the values of moderation, balanced behavior in daily life, and participation in interfaith activities. Through the development of an inclusive curriculum, active learning methods, interfaith extracurricular activities, teacher training, and the use of educational media, religious education can contribute significantly to forming a generation capable of living harmoniously in a diverse society. Thus, religious education that focuses on moderate behavior can help create a peaceful, prosperous, and just society.

#### 4. Conclusions

Religious education for students has an important role in creating harmony and harmony in a diverse society. Religious education places great emphasis on being tolerant, open, and respectful of differences. The implementation of religious education aims to avoid extremism and radicalism, which can trigger conflict. Religious values also teach and prioritize dialogue, compromise, and win-win solutions in overcoming problems. Be a role model in behavior that reflects the values of balance and justice. The mission of religious education is to instill a comprehensive and balanced understanding of religious teachings. Developing a moderate, tolerant, and inclusive religious attitude. Encourage students to practice religious values in everyday life and equip students with the skills to dialogue, negotiate, and resolve conflicts peacefully. Through good and true religious education, it can promote a spirit of togetherness, unity, and harmony among students who have different religious backgrounds. Effective religious education in instilling moderate behavior in students is the key to creating a harmonious, tolerant, and peaceful society. By increasing understanding, tolerance, and active participation in interfaith activities, students can develop the moderate behavior essential for maintaining unity and reducing conflict. Through a holistic and integrated approach, religious education can contribute significantly to forming a generation capable of living harmoniously in a diverse society.

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