



ADPIKS

Asosiasi Dosen Peneliti
Ilmu Keislaman dan Sosial

STUDENTS' TOLERANCE ATTITUDE IN RESPONDING TO RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Rayhan Aulia Annisa Ritonga*¹, Syarbaini Saleh²

^{1,2}Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara, Indonesia

e-mail: *rayhan0309202073@uinsu.ac.id; syarbainisaleh@uinsu.ac.id;

Abstract

This research examines the tolerance shown by teenagers towards religious and cultural differences in the city of Pematang Siantar. In social relations, understanding tolerance is an important key to creating harmonious relationships between individuals from different backgrounds. This research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods. This research method is observation, interviews, and documentation. This research aims to examine and explore more deeply the tolerance attitudes that teenagers must adopt in responding to religious and cultural differences that exist in the city of Pematang Siantar. The results of this research show that teenagers in Pematang Siantar have a positive attitude of tolerance towards religious and cultural differences with indications of awareness of the importance of social harmony. However, several challenges must be overcome, such as the lack of deep understanding among teenagers regarding pluralism and the existence of differences of opinion that are still developing among teenagers. So it is hoped that this research can provide more effective insight to increase the tolerant attitude of teenagers, especially in responding to existing religious and cultural differences.

Keywords: *Tolerance; Youth; Religion, and Culture*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini mengkaji tentang sikap toleransi yang ditunjukkan oleh siswa terhadap perbedaan agama dan budaya di Kota Pematang Siantar. Dalam hubungan sosial, pemahaman tentang sikap toleransi merupakan kunci penting untuk menciptakan hubungan yang harmonis antar individu yang berbeda latar belakangnya. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode deskriptif. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah observasi, wawancara, dan dokumentasi. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengkaji dan menggali lebih dalam bagaimana sikap toleransi yang harus dilakukan oleh siswa dalam menyikapi perbedaan agama dan budaya di Kota Pematang Siantar. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa siswa di Pematang Siantar memiliki sikap toleransi yang positif terhadap perbedaan agama dan budaya dengan indikasi adanya kesadaran akan pentingnya kerukunan sosial. Namun demikian, beberapa tantangan yang harus diatasi seperti kurangnya pemahaman siswa secara mendalam mengenai pluralisme dan adanya perbedaan pendapat yang masih berkembang di kalangan siswa. Maka penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memberikan wawasan yang lebih efektif untuk meningkatkan sikap toleransi siswa terutama dalam menyikapi perbedaan agama dan budaya yang ada.

Kata kunci: *Sikap Toleransi; Siswa; Agama dan Budaya.*

INTRODUCTION

Tolerance is an instrument that is often used to avoid conflict due to differences in religion and culture. On the other hand, tolerance is one of the most important character values in maintaining national unity. As is commonly known, Indonesia is a pluralistic nation and is also known for upholding an attitude of tolerance. However, now the attitude of tolerance in Indonesia is in a condition that is very concerned about the impact of intolerance that increases the need for internet and social media users which encourages the role of education to grow public awareness of the importance of tolerance.(Princess Syahri, 2024).

The need for tolerance is not only increasing because of the epidemic of crime and hate crimes but also because of everyday social interactions that require treating others with courtesy and dignity.(Umi Kalsum, 2024). Pematang Siantar is one of the cities in North Sumatra. In 2020, around 251,516 people lived in the place. With an area of 79,971 km², the city has 8 small areas and 53 small villages. Aminudin Syarif stated that Pematangsiantar is included in the ten most tolerant cities because it has never experienced religious conflict. Other cities included in this list are Salatiga, Singkawang, Manado, Tual, Sibolga, Ambon, Sorong, Pontianak, and Palangkaraya. According to the Central Statistics Agency in 2020, the majority of the population of Pematangsiantar adheres to Protestant Christianity (46.54 percent), Catholicism (4.71 percent), Islam (43.90 percent), Buddhism (4.36 percent), Confucianism (0.01%), and Hinduism (0.11 percent).

Education is the main driver in instilling the values of tolerance among students.(UNESCO-APNIEVE, 2020) has described the role of education in cultivating tolerance. First, education is the most effective way to prevent intolerance and the steps taken are to teach students and the general public about rights and freedoms gradually so that they can understand and respect. In addition, education also promotes a person's desire to protect others.

Second, education in tolerance must be considered a mandatory requirement. This is what drives the promotion of tolerance learning methods systematically and rationally that will discuss the various causes of these violent acts. Therefore, based on these conditions, there needs to be a policy in educational programs that contribute to the

development of understanding, solidarity, and tolerance between individuals and groups, nations, social, religions, and cultures.

Third, education in attitudes of tolerance should aim to overcome influences that lead to fear and exclusion of others to help young people develop capacities for independent judgment, critical thinking, and reasoning on ethnic issues.

Fourth, implementing research and education programs in social sciences in attitudes of tolerance, human rights, and nonviolence. Based on this, special attention is needed to improve the quality of teacher training, curriculum, and educational materials in textbooks.

This is intended to educate the younger generation and society to be openly responsible for other religions and cultures, to be able to appreciate every value of freedom, and to be able to prevent conflicts over differences and to be able to resolve them in the right way without violence.(UNESCO-APNIEVE, 2020).

According to(Iskandar, 2022), the formation of tolerance is the process and stages of a person receiving information from their surroundings. Tolerance is not only built by a person. People have brains that allow them to think, judge, compare, and reason to make ethical decisions. Students gain learning experiences in school, which teach them about religious and cultural diversity, which builds their tolerant attitudes. Tolerant students are able to treat everyone in their environment the same way, are able to work in diverse groups, respect and appreciate each other, and emphasize similarities rather than differences.

Therefore, researchers can explain that students in Pematang Siantar City have very little understanding of tolerance in culture and religion, which means not respecting, acknowledging, understanding, and appreciating every difference that exists. Therefore, in families and education, it is necessary to apply the values of tolerance through communication and understanding related to religious and cultural differences. In schools, students also need to be taught to tolerate each other by respecting, respecting, and understanding each other's opinions.

Students should also be aware that it is more difficult to accept religious beliefs because religious beliefs tend to be more specific and fanatical and many do not respect

differences and beliefs, but students must be taught an attitude of tolerance by providing support, respecting other people's opinions, and communicating well with people from different ethnicities and cultures.

Therefore, understanding and implementing tolerance among the younger generation in a nation is a very important thing because of the many changes in the current era of globalization that have made changes in various aspects including the mindset of today's students. And in this case, it is important to provide an understanding of tolerance for the millennial generation and this must be taken seriously so that it can be applied in everyday life and can be an example for the next young generation.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive method. Descriptive qualitative research is a research method that uses qualitative data and describes it descriptively. The purpose of this study is to present a complete picture of the research related to an incident so that factual data can be collected in the phenomena that occur. (Sugiyono, 2008).

This research was conducted in Pematang Siantar City. And conducted directly to the field by researchers to find out about the attitude of tolerance of students in responding to religious and cultural differences in Pematang Siantar City. The type of approach taken by the researcher above is aimed at understanding the phenomena experienced by the research subjects and answering the problems found in the field. Thus, it can produce systematic data that is easy for researchers to understand in the problems that occur in the field.

The data collection techniques used by the researcher are observation, interviews, and documentation. The researcher conducted observations first in Pematang Siantar City. Then the researcher conducted interviews with the informants to be studied. The research informants consist of 3 types of informants, namely key informants, main informants, and supporting informants. The key informants of this study are the local community, namely Mr. Bahdan Saragih, M.Pd, and Mrs. Safnida Pane, S.Pd AUD. They are local people so the researcher chose the two informants as key informants.

Next, the main informant is Mr. Mangihut Martua Manik, SH as the village head of Pematang Siantar, Mr. Daud Siregar, S.Ag as a religious leader, and Mr. Ali Nafiah Tanjung, S.Ag as a religious leader. These three informants are the key informants in this study. Finally, the main informant is students in Pematang Siantar city consisting of three students, namely Assyifah, Zikko, and Febby. These three students are the main informants in the study.

Data analysis in this study was carried out qualitatively through 3 stages, namely data reduction, data presentation and drawing conclusions.(Rahmad Hidayat, 2022). To be more easily understood, raw data collected from observations, interviews, and documentation are classified and then summarized. Data reduction is a type of analysis that aims to sharpen, select, focus, and organize data to support the final conclusions of the study.(Moleong, 2000). Furthermore, this study uses narrated text. Finally, it is given in the form of drawing conclusions, namely data analysis after being reduced and presented so that conclusions can be drawn. The initial conclusions presented at the initial stage are only temporary and will change if no strong evidence is found to support the data collection stage. However, if the conclusions presented at the initial stage are supported by valid and consistent evidence during the data collection research, the conclusions presented are credible. Then, data validity is carried out to prove whether the research conducted is truly scientific research and can test the data obtained. The method for verifying data in this study is triangulation (Nurlaila Sapitri, 2023).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Attitude of Tolerance

According to (Soekanto, 2000) tolerance is an attitude that is an embodiment and self-understanding of the attitudes of other parties that are not agreed with. Temporary(Koentjaraningrat, 1999) in KBBSI explains that tolerance is a nature or attitude of respecting (respecting, allowing, permitting) opinions, views, beliefs, habits, and behaviors that are very different from one's stance. Examples are religion, ethnicity, race, and culture. So, simply put, it can be said that tolerance is an attitude of respecting and accepting the differences that each other person has.

Meanwhile, according to Sutton (2016), tolerance is the ability and willingness of each person and the general public to be careful about the rights of people in small groups or minorities who live in regulations that have been formulated by the majority. It is further explained that tolerance is an attitude to respect every right of minorities who live in regulations made by the majority.

In terms of terminology, tolerance can be defined as an attitude or characteristic of respecting, allowing, or permitting someone's position, be it opinions, views, beliefs, habits, or things that are different from one's position.(Abdullah, 2013).

According to Article 1 of the Declaration of principles on Tolerance announced and signed by UNESCO member states on November 16, 1995, the meaning of which is that tolerance is respect, acceptance, and appreciation of cultural diversity in the world, as well as various forms of self-expression and ways of being human. This is driven by knowledge, openness, communication, and freedom of thought, conscience, and belief. Tolerance is harmony in one difference which is not only a moral obligation but also a political and legal requirement. Tolerance is also a kindness that makes peace that may contribute to the replacement of the culture of war and the culture of peace.

Tolerance focuses more on the threshold of affirmation that measures the plurality and hostility found in other people or forums. Therefore, it is important to emphasize that stamina should not ignore the properties of a particular forum or person before being adjusted to the atmosphere of another forum. Tolerance means honoring and respecting the hostility of people who are included in a particular forum, along with encouraging tolerance for taking place in directions towards the same goals. Stamina is honoring, accepting, and respecting the plurality that is part of our global civilization, along with our laws of speech and personality as every human being. Tolerance is driven by knowledge, openness, communication, the authority of thought, and in the threshold of stamina that respects every hostility.(UNESCO-APNIEVE, 2020).

Developing a principle of durability that can be applied near various places and types of activities. Because of the volume of use that is in the interior of the community, this perijuz is very important. If there is no mutual understanding and togetherness, contradictions will occur. According to Philosopher Isaiah Berlin, as expressed by Tilaar (1999: 160), pursuing similarity and promises is not the most important perijuz, the less balanced mass; the most important thing is the constructive mass that knows each other

and is diverse.

So in understanding the attitude of tolerance, researchers show several findings in the results of interviews on awareness of tolerance which reveal that there are several challenges in awareness to realize that an attitude of tolerance is a key to maintaining social harmony in the diversity that exists. Education in schools and the influence of the family are some of the main factors in the formation of an attitude of tolerance and the involvement of education in multiculturalism which tends to be more open to differences. Therefore, overall, it shows that even though there are several challenges in facing it, students must have an attitude of tolerance and must understand it to commit to strengthening the harmony that occurs in the midst of the diversity of tolerance that exists.

Student

The word "student" comes from Latin, the meaning of which is adolescence, which means to grow or to grow to maturity, which is defined as a student whose growth period is between childhood and adolescence. (L. Smith, 2022) does not provide an explicit understanding of Students (adolescents) but rather implicitly through the understanding of the Student period (adolescence). Therefore, (L. Smith, 2022) explains that the student period is a period of transition in development between childhood and adulthood which generally starts at the age of 12 or 13 years and ends when the student enters their teens or early twenties.

According to (A. Lee, 2023) explains that the Student period occurs when the development process includes changes related to psychosexual development and also changes in relationships with parents and ideals which are the formation of a process in the formation of orientation in the future of the Student. Therefore, Students are a period in the life of an individual where psychological development occurs to find the identity of each Student and during this transition period, Students will be able to develop their talents and abilities and will show to look different from others. The Student period is also often referred to as puberty which is used to state changes in the biological period, both in form and physiology, which occur rapidly from the development period of children to adulthood in Students (C. Garcia, 2021).

Psychologically, students are at an age where each individual becomes integrated into adult society and an age where children do not feel older but rather feel more on par

with adult children.(K. Wong, 2024) explains that students can be classified into 3 groups, namely: early students (12-15 years), middle students (15-18 years), and final students (18-21 years).

Development during the student period means development during childhood which is still being experienced, but each student has entered the maturity stage of adulthood which has been achieved.(C. Garcia, 2021). Part of childhood is the process of biological growth, for example, height continues to increase. Part of adulthood is the process of maturity of all body organs including reproductive function cognitive maturity and the ability to think abstractly.(N. Robinson, 2022).

According to Elizabeth B. Hurlock, the Latin word "adolescence", meaning "student" and "increasing" or "increasing to play an adult role", is the seed of the English story "adolescence". Previously, children did not distinguish between the ten decades of puberty and students from other fragments of the child's circulation. When moving is able to practice sexual relations, moving is considered to be an adult.

The term "Student" captures mental, social, and emotional maturity. According to Piaget, the Adolescent period is the age at which successive species add up to adult species and slaves no longer regress behind the phase of older species, but are at least part of the merger of parts in society, trying to regress in the same phase.(K. Wong, 2024). In addition, the World Health Organization present day 1974 said that Students are ten decades of circulation in which a person multiplies the first time the river touches the command of lust appears to reach sexual maturity.

Differences Between Religion and Culture

Religion and culture are different perspectives and also the same perspective in having interpretations that can cause conflict or problems. Many cases in religion and culture often occur due to wrong interpretations and even just following along. Therefore, an educator must be able to take advantage of every opportunity to socialize religious awareness in order to foster a spirit of true religion.(H. Martinez, 2023).

Interviews conducted by researchers with respondents namely Mr. Daud Siregar, S.Ag and Mr. Ali Nafiah Tanjung, S.Ag that religious differences show many responses to beliefs in different religious practices towards differences in religion and culture, for example in differences in worship or on major celebration days in religion.

Therefore, differences in the instillation of moral and ethical values that must be taught well by each religion such as how to view life and social relations to religious differences and how social interaction and communication between individuals can affect each different religious difference.

Furthermore, in the culture of differences in cultural traditions such as customs that have different views in traditional life, it is necessary to instill an attitude of tolerance. Although there are differences or similarities in basic values or in the purpose of life in religion and culture, the opportunity to develop in understanding differences must provide insight in influencing to deal with them in a constructive way.(S. Kumar, 2022).

Religion

Religion is a teaching that comes from God as the result of human contemplation contained in holy books that have been passed down from one generation to another to provide a guide to life for every human being so that they can achieve happiness in this world and the hereafter, which includes elements of belief in supernatural powers which then give rise to emotional responses and beliefs that happiness in life only depends on good relationships and the existence of these supernatural powers.(M. Patel, 2021).

Religion in Sanskrit consists of the word "A" which means no and "gama" which means chaos. So the meaning of religion is a regulation that prevents humans from chaos and leads them to a life of order and order. According to the big dictionary of the Indonesian language, religion is a system that regulates the order of faith or belief in the almighty god and the rules related to human relations and humans and their environment.(K. Smith, 2024).

Scope of Religion

Outline(R. Johnson, 2022)explains that the scope of Islam is divided into three parts, namely: First, The relationship between humans and their creator, namely Allah SWT, and as Allah says: "And I did not create jinn and humans except so that they would worship me" (QS. Az-Zariyat: 56). Apart from that, Allah says: "In fact, they were not ordered except to worship Allah by purifying obedience to Him in (practicing) a straight religion, and so that they perform prayers and pay zakat and that is the straight religion." (QS. Al-Bayyinah: 5).

Second, The relationship between humans and humans, the Islamic religion has basic concepts regarding kinship, society, statehood, and the economy. It is this basic concept that provides an overview of teachings that are relevant to human relations with humans, which are called social teachings. Therefore, the concept of society will rely on one value, namely mutual help between fellow humans. "And please help you in (carrying out) wisdom and piety, and do not help you in committing sins and transgressions. and fear Allah, verily Allah will have a very severe punishment." (QS. Al-Maidah: 2) Humans were created by Allah consisting of men and women who live in groups, nations, and tribes and they need each other and complement each other so that humans can be called social creatures who are always in contact with each other. with each other.

Third, The relationship between humans and other creatures or the environment is all the objects created by Allah that have existed in this nature which are beneficial to humans. "Do you not see that Allah has created the heavens and the earth with truth?" (QS-Ibrahim: 19) So humans are given reason as one of the advantages and thus humans must remain bound and subject to the laws of Allah and nature that has been created by Allah which is beneficial for the benefit of humans.

Culture

Culture is a pattern of basic assumptions that can be found and determined by a particular group because it has learned to master its problems of external adaptation and internal integration, which has worked well enough to be considered appropriate to be taught to new members as the correct way to think and feel in relation to those problems.(L. Anderson, 2021).

Culture is also referred to as a concept that arouses interest in the way humans live, learn to think, believe, and strive for what is necessary according to their culture in the sense of the word culture is behavior and social symptoms that describe identity in the image of a society (Syaiful Sagala, 2013). So culture is defined as a way of life of people who move from generation to generation through various processes in learning in creating a certain way of life and most suitable for their environment.(E. Wilson, 2022).

One of the professors of Indonesian anthropology, Koentjaraningrat, is of the opinion that "culture" comes from the Sanskrit word buddhayah, while in the plural form, it is buddhi, which means mind or reason, so according to him, culture can be interpreted

as things related to mind and reason, and there are also those who think that it is a development of the compound cultivation, which means the power of the mind or the strength of a mind. (A. Harris, 2024).

CONCLUSION

Attitude Students' tolerance in responding to religious and cultural differences is that students tend to be more open and accepting of diversity compared to previous generations. They better understand the importance of respecting differences and strive to build harmonious relationships with individuals from different backgrounds. However, this attitude of tolerance can be influenced by education, social environment, and personal experiences. Positive intercultural education and interaction programs can strengthen students' attitudes toward tolerance in an increasingly diverse society.

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