

NAVIGATING COMMON GOOD AS THE FRAMEWORK OF PROMOTING RELIGIOUS MODERATION EDUCATION IN INDONESIA

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Abstract

As a nation with highly multicultural societies, Indonesia comprises various ethnic groups, customs, cultures, and religions. This often triggers societal conflicts between tribes, cultures, and beliefs. For this reason, a model or approach is needed to increase tolerance and respect. Therefore, it is essential to explore the common good values as a framework of promoting religious moderation education through a philosophical approach particularly in Indonesian setting. This concept emphasizes the need for cooperation between various beliefs to achieve common goals in creating an inclusive and harmonious society by emphasizing universal moral principles in developing a framework for religious moderation education. Specifically, this study aims to implement the concept of the common good as a universal religious moderation value in Indonesian society as a nation with a significant plurality. The method used in this research is qualitative library research using secondary data. Based on the relevant literature, the results showed that the concept of common good as the idea of promoting religious education moderation as a solution to the problems of diversity and plurality of religions, cultures, tribes, ethnicities, and groups in Indonesia as a nation with a high level of diversity. This review implies that Indonesians societies ought to embrace the idea of common good to create harmonious and more tolerant societies in Indonesia.

Keywords: Common Good; Multicultural Societies; Religious Moderation Education, Indonesia

INTRODUCTION

Given its religious and cultural diversity, Indonesia is a nation rife with intolerant problems (Lukito, 2012). Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Catholicism, and Confucianism are among the major religions practiced in

Indonesia. Islam is the most common religion among Indonesians, with 87.2% of the population practicing it across the archipelago, according to data from the Central Bureau of National Statistics. The remaining 12.8% practice other religions. In June 2021, there were 272.23 million people living in Indonesia, according to data from the Ministry of Home Affairs' Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration (Dukcapil). Up to 236.53 million of them (86.88%) identify as Muslims. This indicates that Muslims make up the majority of Indonesia's population. In Indonesia, up to 20.4 million individuals (7.49%) identify as Christians. Consequently, 8.42 million individuals (3.09%) are Catholic in Indonesia. The religious ummah demonstrates that Indonesia is a nation that respects religious freedom from a theological perspective. In practice, an understanding of plurality and diversity is not new in Indonesia. According to Rosyad et al. (2021), variety is only a component of everyday life for the Indonesian people as a whole. It is therefore susceptible to conflict between religions and cultures under such circumstances.

According to Nurcholis, Indonesia is not yet mature enough to embrace pluralism as the state's fundamental breath. This state turns into social friction that marginally impedes collective progress and prosperity. State threats to achieve justice and mutual gain include religious propaganda and the intolerance problem. To prevent mistrust of different religions, religious tolerance must lead to an inclusive or open mindset (Madjid, 2009). In the context of the common good, tolerance highlights the importance of maintaining cooperation, appreciation, and understanding of principles that promote well-being and the common good, regardless of differences in beliefs, cultures, or points of view. This entails valuing diversity, upholding individual human rights, and fostering productive discourse while avoiding bias against moral precepts that advance the common good. Cak Nur defines it as the understanding that every person is equal in the eyes of God Almighty. This principle emphasizes that social ties, which should reflect the

universal nature of humanity, should no longer be tense due to a sense of superiority among religious followers, cultural fans, race or ethnic group owners.

The idea of the common good, in its broadest sense, refers to encouraging religious moderation globally as a means of finding a middle ground among the diversity and plurality of religions, nationalities, and races. This must be founded on the idea of the common good (Hermawan, 2012). Another name for it is a shared objective in the diverse life of the state and society. Certain types of diversity frequently lead to interpersonal and group conflicts inside the country and state. of this situation, the common good turns into a generally applicable ethic that supports religious moderation and tolerance for differences of opinion. In philosophy, the term "common good" refers to the interests or common good that all members of a community or society share. This phrase describes a shared interest that goes beyond individual or collective interests and seeks to advance the welfare of the community as a whole. The idea of the common good assumes that everyone in society benefits from taking into account and acting in the common interest in order to live a decent and sustainable life. Without sacrificing personal independence, it entails a dedication to social justice, equality, freedom, and the general benefit. In order to achieve unity in diversity, cooperation in the common cause is essential.

In order to create a better society, this concept highlights the value of cooperation, tolerance, solidarity, and shared responsibility (Wahyudin et al, 2021). The goal is to reduce personal matters that affect the common interest so that the divide between one society and another is unbounded by the common good. The common good emerges as the main objective of sustainable and equitable development in the public domain. Certain issues with religious moderation are universally complicated and frequently call for cautious approach. Extremism and radicalization (Armstrong, 2001), social media and negative propaganda, identity politics and power contestation,

insensitivity to differences, the influence of social, economic, and political factors, power and representation imbalances, and a lack of leaders and stakeholders dedicated to a common objective are some of the major obstacles to achieving universal religious moderation. To overcome these obstacles, governments, religious authorities, educational institutions, civil society organizations, and individuals must work together to establish an atmosphere that is welcoming, courteous, and conducive to universal religious moderation. In order to promote religious moderation in Indonesian society, this study investigates the common good framework. The results and discussion section will go into additional detail about a few principles in the idea of the universal common good.

Many scholars have investigated about religious moderation in Indonesia (see for example Mukhibat, et. al, 2023; Suryadi, 2022, Hidayati, 2023). However, scarce literature that has explored about the concept of the common good for promoting religious moderation education in Indonesia. Therefore, this study intends to review the common good framework as the approach to foster religious moderation education in Indonesian societies. Some guidelines in the concept of universal common good will be elaborated further in the results and discussion section.

METHODS

This research employed a literature review methodology, which involves systematically gathering, reading, recording, and analyzing data from library-based sources (Mestika, 2014). The literature review was conducted by compiling secondary data from journal articles and books across a range of references. These sources were subsequently analyzed and synthesized to draw meaningful conclusions. This method emphasizes theoretical exploration and references that address the values, culture, and norms inherent in the social context under investigation. Furthermore, the literature review serves as a critical component of the research process, ensuring a

robust theoretical foundation for addressing the research objectives.

Data for this study were obtained from scholarly journal articles and reputable books, both domestic and international, accessed through platforms such as Google Scholar, Garuda, and Moraref Kemenag. The researchers employed specific keywords, including "common good" and "religious moderation," to locate relevant sources published between 2018 and 2023. The retrieved data were then filtered based on inclusion and exclusion criteria to ensure relevance to the study's focus on the concepts of common good and religious moderation in Indonesia. The selected literature was systematically analyzed and integrated into the research findings.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Religious-State Communication in Universal Religious Moderation

Indonesia faces major internal dangers and challenges in managing the state system in the lives of the nation and state. It must make reference to the objectives or public interests while shifting the axis of the nation's and state's life, but it does not disregard religion as the lifeblood of its movement. Religion is linearly tied to human ideas, and in order to prevent disputes that include religious elements and symbols, it must discriminate between sacred and profane topics (Muhammad, 2013). The idea of the common good as a paradigm for communal variety must coexist with sacred things; it does not imply the oppression of profane things. Medieval intellectuals turned their attention to the public realm, where religion was given precedence in carrying out constitutionally authorized rituals. Discussing the place of religion in public life is crucial in a democratic state of law, particularly when there is a wide range of people who either have different religious beliefs or do not have any. When confronted with such pluralism, the significance of critically examining the function of religion in the public arena becomes extremely relevant and needs serious consideration. In this case, people who acknowledge metaphysical aspects engage with one another in a structured

way. Ignoring religious variety and multicultural realities can result in the development of attitudes of tolerance that undermine concord in the context of religious belief diversity. The role of religion that conveys the grace of the Almighty can be diminished by narrow-mindedness and rigid attitudes toward religion. This knowledge will make it challenging to provide a forum for religious discussion and to bring people together around common sociocultural advancements (Abdullah, 2015).

Religious concord is not the same as religious syncretism, which is the relativization of existing faiths into a single totality by combining them into schools of the totality religion. Rather, harmony serves as a tool for bringing religious groups together in the social process and controlling the exterior interactions with nonreligious persons (Rusyd, 2018). Finding commonality around a shared objective might help bridge minor differences in beliefs that are not significant in order to achieve the social harmony of a multicultural and plural society. Islam views the Qur'an as a sacred text and a manual for living that reconciles diversity and plurality while highlighting commonalities. This clarifies that tolerance, acknowledgment, and regard for others are more important than differences (Suryan, 2017). The dominant religion in Indonesia, Islam, uses the Qur'an as a guide to live in variety while still having the substance to understand one another. Allah SWT states in the sacred Qur'an:

O humankind, indeed, we have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted. (QS. al-Hujurat [49] : 13).

God made everyone unique from birth—not for no reason, but so that they could identify one another. Understanding one another, being open, being tolerant, and respecting human values. The word "piety" contains the wisdom of surah al-Hujarat. In its broadest definition, piety is the universal act of showing love to all of God's creations on earth. The term "piety" refers

to a core value shared by all people and a group of people. Piety can be interpreted as universal benevolence if it is applied to the positive domain of social order. The idea of the common good can promote universal goodness. The idea of the "common good" turns into a solution when there is a consensus that results in the social order of society. Multicultural realities place a strong emphasis on the importance of people working together and respecting one another. The knowledge that everyone can communicate and conduct business regardless of cultural background lends credence to this concept. Human characteristics such as inclusivity, sociability, flexibility, adaptability, and the capacity to share experiences are to blame for this. In this sense, diversity suggests the value of equality and mutual respect in a world that is becoming more complicated and less homogeneous (Dewantara, 2017). Multiculturalism and plurality have emerged as two of the common good's tenets. Diverse perspectives, values, cultures, and backgrounds of people and groups come together to promote societal harmony in the pursuit of this common goal. These two ideas promote tolerance, respect, and collaboration among all facets of society by bringing diversity and depth to it. Plurality and multiculturalism are utilized as assets to create inclusive and peaceful relationships for the common benefit by uniting in the pursuit of that goal.

First and foremost, the concept of the common good is the foundation that underlies moderation in the realm of religion by emphasizing common interests that overcome individual or group interests. This foundation is not just an agreement on actions and attitudes that can interfere with common interests but also the basis for agreement in every aspect of life, including behaviour, speech, and deeds. The goal is to maintain harmony and create an environment that supports the collective good or mutual harmony (Options, 1997). Common good as a principle also shows the importance of understanding and bridging differences in religious views in a diverse society. This requires tolerance of differences and calls for prioritizing the

common good over differences in beliefs. In this context, the common good becomes a meeting point that unites various religious perspectives, promotes equality, and affirms universal values that embrace diversity and uphold the value of tolerance (Suryan, 2017).

The foundation of the common good, which transcends personal or group interests, also challenges individuals to think more broadly and consider the impact of every action and decision. It emphasizes the importance of acting for the common good, even if it requires personal sacrifice. Thus, the common good is not just a moral aspect but also a framework that shapes values in inter-individual and inter-faith relationships. This concept inspires moderation in religion as an effort to create peace, harmony, and mutual understanding among people of different faiths in a holistic manner, thus making the common good an essential foundation for achieving universal religious moderation.

Secondly, balancing collective interest and religious freedom is crucial in creating harmony in a society of diverse beliefs. Although there is potential for conflict at first sight, this balance ensures that the collective interest and individual freedom to practice their beliefs can go hand in hand without conflict. This principle of balance emphasizes the importance of maintaining harmony between the collective interest as a society and individual religious freedom rights (Mudzhar, 2024). This not only means giving complete freedom to individuals to practice their beliefs but also requires that such beliefs do not interfere with the collective interest or the rights of other individuals. In this context, the balance between the common good and religious freedom refers to a framework that facilitates exercising religious freedom while considering the public interest. This suggests that individual rights are protected without compromising the common good in building a just and balanced society. This balance also emphasizes the need for dialogue, respect for differences, and peaceful conflict resolution. Involving all parties, individuals, and society helps maintain a balance that supports the

diversity of beliefs without compromising the common good. Moreover, under this principle, religious freedom is not an excuse to go against the common good (Maria, 2023). Instead, this balance promotes the responsible use of religious freedom without harming the collective interest or causing social disharmony.

Thirdly, inclusiveness and openness to diversity of beliefs are essential in building a harmonious society and peaceful coexistence (Az-Zuhaili, 2012). This concept refers to an open and accepting attitude towards various religious beliefs and practices in a society. Inclusiveness in the context of diversity of beliefs refers to the courage to accept and respect the presence and rights of individuals with different beliefs. It is not only about tolerance but also about promoting recognition of the right of every individual to practice their beliefs without discrimination or persecution. Openness to diverse beliefs describes an attitude open to understanding and learning about the beliefs of others. It involves learning, dialogue, and understanding the differences in beliefs, strengthening relationships between individuals, and reducing inter-belief conflict.

An inclusive attitude and openness to diverse beliefs strengthen the basis for building a social framework that protects the rights of individuals regardless of religion or belief (Shihab, 2005). It creates an environment that supports mutual understanding and tolerance and encourages inter-faith collaboration for broader common goals. Inclusiveness and openness to diverse beliefs are actions and attitudes permeating all societal levels. It requires a willingness to listen, understand, and appreciate diverse beliefs as part of a richly diverse shared life. By encouraging inclusiveness and openness to diverse beliefs, society can experience growth and enhance social cohesion. It is about respecting differences and embracing them as a strength that enriches a community's social and cultural networks. Thus, inclusiveness and openness to diverse beliefs are the first steps to building a

more inclusive, just, and harmonious society where everyone feels valued and accepted.

Fourthly, respect for other perspectives on the concept of the common good is critical in building an inclusive and equitable society. This principle emphasizes the importance of understanding, appreciating, and accommodating the various viewpoints and beliefs that exist in society (Astuti, 2018). Respecting for other perspectives in the context of the common good means recognizing differences and promoting cooperation and harmony among various beliefs. This requires an open attitude and a willingness to learn from different points of view to achieve the common good without compromising the fundamental values held by each individual or group. This principle emphasizes that every perspective, belief, or view has value and a meaningful contribution to building an inclusive society. It shows the importance of listening and understanding the reasons behind others' views, which helps create a more open space for dialogue.

Respect for other perspectives in the common good also demands an increased capacity to empathize, respect and respond constructively to differences of opinion. This allows people to grow in diversity by enriching and broadening their understanding. The importance of respect for other perspectives in the common good lies in bridging differences and building understanding between different parties. By embracing a diversity of views, this principle creates the foundation for a society that is more solid, respectful, and able to balance the common good and individual freedom (Aini et al, 2022). By respecting other perspectives within the concept of the common good, society can shape an environment that supports collaborative growth, increases appreciation for diversity, and strengthens solidarity in achieving broader common goals.

Fifthly, equality and justice are essential for a common good (Saumantri, 2023). The common good views equality as the underlying principle of the rights and obligations of every individual in society and respects the diversity

that exists. Equality here is not only limited to equality in the law but also includes equal opportunities in accessing resources, education, employment, and public services. Justice in a common good aim to uphold laws and policies that are fair to all, regardless of background, religion, or social status. This involves equitable distribution of resources and fair treatment of individuals, thus creating an inclusive and equitable environment for the whole society (Sugitanata et al, 2023). The principles of equality and justice in a common good also include the protection of fundamental human rights. These include the rights to freedom of speech, religion, and association and the rights to justice, health, and security. In addition, equality and justice also serve as tools to strengthen cooperation and solidarity among communities. By ensuring that every individual is treated fairly, the common good creates a strong foundation for building harmonious and respectful relationships. In addition, equality, and justice in the common good framework emphasize the importance of minimizing social and economic disparities. This creates an environment where everyone has an equal opportunity to thrive and contribute positively to society. Equality and justice in the common good are principles that put the common good at the centre while still paying attention to the rights of individuals. This is the foundation for a just society and an essential step in achieving sustainable and inclusive common goals.

Next, religious moderation bridged by the common good affirms the rejection of extremism and intolerance in all its forms. Religious moderation linked to the common good promotes a middle stance that views religious beliefs as the foundation for peace, tolerance, and harmony in diverse societies (Astuti, 2018). This principle asserts that moderation in religious beliefs is a solution that contradicts extremism, which creates conflict and disharmony in society, by bridging the understanding of beliefs and prioritizing the common good (Rahmadi et al, 2023). In addition, the common good asserts that extremism is incompatible with achieving an inclusive common good. Religious moderation based on the common good is a defence

against intolerance. In this context, the common good emphasizes the importance of respecting differences, dialoguing constructively, and accepting diversity of beliefs as an inseparable part of social diversity. This principle of moderation places the common good as the main goal in creating a safe, peaceful, and inclusive environment. By rejecting extremism and intolerance, the common good underscores the importance of building solidarity among religious groups to realize a harmonious societal balance.

Moreover, the common good contends that radicalism and achieving an inclusive common good are incompatible. The prudent practice of religious moderation protects against intolerance. The common good in this case emphasizes how important it is to respect differences, have fruitful conversations, and tolerate a range of viewpoints as a necessary part of society diversity. This moderation strategy creates a safe, peaceful, and inviting environment while putting the common good first. The common good highlights how important it is to promote religious harmony in order to combat intolerance and extremism and create a balanced, peaceful community. These universal moral principles provide a framework that respects differences in opinion while fostering cooperation in the pursuit of inclusive shared objectives. In religious contexts, the common good also stresses the application of moral principles that represent both local and global wisdom. Without disparaging or disregarding the unique tenets of each religion, this enables individuals to comprehend core ideas that are mutually reinforcing. It goes on to say that the application of universal ethical principles promotes a moral code that is acceptable to all people, communities, or groups, irrespective of their religious background or views. In order to achieve the common good, it promotes tolerance, inclusivity, and respect for differences in opinion. Cooperation between individuals of various religious backgrounds is also strengthened by the application of universal ethical principles supported by the common good. It encourages candid communication and understanding between many religious

traditions, laying the groundwork for the development of a society that is welcoming, peaceful, and equitable for all of its constituents.

Last but not least, a harmonious and peaceful society is greatly influenced by religious moderation within the context of the common good (Kamal, 2022). This idea of moderation highlights how crucial it is to strike a balance between religious convictions and principles that uphold harmony, peace, and tolerance among people of different faiths. Religious moderation is encouraged by the common good in an effort to lessen disputes stemming from ideological disagreements. This entails opposing extremism and advocating for a moderate position that encourages respect, communication, and tolerance between followers of other religions. The common good's advocacy of religious moderation seeks to establish a secure and welcoming environment for people of all faith backgrounds. To create a culture of respect for one another in spite of differences, this entails fostering understanding between people, appreciating diversity, and identifying areas of agreement. More specifically, this idea states that the basis for creating a peaceful community is religious moderation. By encouraging people and religious communities to look for areas of agreement that promote collaboration, common good establishes an environment that permits candid communication and understanding amongst people, which results in peace and harmony. The common good spreads knowledge of the value of accepting a range of viewpoints and opposing prejudice and extremism in all its manifestations through religious moderation. The development of an inclusive society, harmonious coexistence, and the promotion of tolerance between religious communities are all made possible by this. Therefore, in the context of the common good, religious moderation lessens conflict and creates a society that is friendlier, more harmonious, and more cohesive.

CONCLUSION

Adopting the common good as the basis for religious moderation

education offers a great chance to create more inclusive, tolerant, and cohesive societies across different countries. It can serve as a catalyst for religious moderation by providing a way to bring people together in a society where different beliefs coexist. Additionally, by emphasizing inclusive ideals, where each person or religion group is valued and given a position in the general well-being of society, the common good offers a picture of a better future. Accepting differences and working together to embrace diversity, cultivate tolerance, and advance harmony among different faiths are all part of this. Notwithstanding differences in beliefs, establishing common good values as the cornerstone of religious moderation offers a solid basis for creating a better future. It is anticipated that these principles would lead to greater comprehension, fruitful discussion, and transparency that enhances society viewpoints. In addition to respecting human rights, a balance between the common good and individual freedom, and a cooperative spirit that values diversity, a future vision based on the common good as the cornerstone of religious moderation. This creates the foundation for an accepting society in which all people, regardless of their religious views, are valued and acknowledged. In general, establishing the common good value as the cornerstone of religious moderation entails not only accepting difference but also accomplishing the goal of a harmonious, inclusive, and cohesive society in which all people and groups respect one another and work for the common good. Therefore, the idea of universal religious moderation, or the common good, opens the door to amicable interfaith interactions by valuing diversity and fostering togetherness. Thus, the common good is not only a universal ideal but also the basis for peaceful interactions between many religious traditions, offering hope for a more accepting and inclusive society for all.

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