



## **Construction of Education Based on Religious Moderation: Role of Islamic Education Leadership in Promoting Tolerance and Social Harmony**

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### **Abstract**

This research focuses on the implementation of religious moderation-based education at An-Nawawi Berjan Purworejo Islamic Boarding School, with an emphasis on the role of Islamic education leadership, especially KH Ahmad Chalwani. In the era of globalisation and the complexity of multicultural society, Islamic educational institutions have an important role in building attitudes of tolerance and social harmony. The religious moderation approach is recognised as effective in developing inclusiveness, tolerance and respect for religious diversity. This research used a qualitative approach with a case study design, involving the leadership, teachers, and students of An-Nawawi Berjan Islamic Boarding School in Purworejo. Data were collected through interviews, direct observation, and document analysis, then analysed thematically to identify key patterns. The findings show successful integration of the principles of religious moderation in the curriculum, school policies, and daily teaching practices, which enhances students' understanding and participation in appreciating religious diversity. Discussion of the findings highlights the importance of religious moderation-based education in responding to the challenge of religious extremism. The contribution of Pondok Pesantren An-Nawawi Berjan Purworejo in promoting inclusive and tolerant education sets an example for other educational institutions in building a harmonious society amid increasingly complex religious diversity. This research confirms the relevance and essentiality of religious moderation-based education in the context of Islamic education, as well as providing practical guidance for stakeholders in strengthening the values of moderation, tolerance and diversity in education and society.

**Keywords:** Islamic Education, Moderation, Leadership, Tolerance

## **Introduction**

In the era of globalisation and the complexity of a multicultural society, the role of educational institutions, especially Islamic educational institutions, is becoming increasingly important in shaping attitudes of tolerance and social harmony.(Akrim, 2022) Religious moderation-based education has been recognised as an effective approach in developing inclusive, tolerant and respectful attitudes towards diversity of religions and beliefs.(Banchoff, 2008),(Asrori, 2022),(Ansryori, 2024) In this context, Islamic education leadership plays a key role in designing education that promotes the values of religious moderation.(Velarde, 2017)

Although many studies have highlighted the importance of Islamic education that focuses on religious moderation as a response to the challenges of radicalisation and religious extremism (Alam, 2020) (Arifinsyah et al., 2020), a deep understanding of the implementation of religious moderation-based educational construction in Islamic educational institutions is still limited, especially in the context of the role of educational leadership (Syahid et al., 2024),(Arifin, 2016).

Therefore, the purpose of this article is to investigate more deeply the implementation of religious moderation-based educational constructs in Islamic educational institutions, focusing on the important role of Islamic educational leadership (Pranata & Sesmiarni, 2022). Through in-depth analysis, this article aims to provide a better understanding of effective educational leadership strategies and practices in promoting tolerance, inclusiveness and social harmony in a diverse society.By highlighting the key role of Islamic educational leadership in shaping the construction of religious moderation-based education, this article is expected to provide valuable insights for educational practitioners, school leaders, and other stakeholders in the effort to build a peaceful and harmonious society within the framework of religious diversity.

In the context of this research, the focus will be given to the contribution and practice of KH. Ahmad Chalwani's leadership at An-Nawawi Berjan Islamic Boarding School in Purworejo. As a respected Islamic education figure, KH. Ahmad Chalwani plays an important role in guiding the vision and mission of the educational institution towards education that promotes tolerance, inclusiveness, and social harmony.

Pondok Pesantren An-Nawawi Berjan Purworejo, located in Purworejo Regency, Central Java, under the leadership of KH. Ahmad Chalwani, has become an Islamic education centre active in advocating religious moderation and promoting messages of peace in religious education. By understanding KH. Ahmad Chalwani's leadership contributions and practices, this article will investigate how Pondok Pesantren An-Nawawi Berjan Purworejo has succeeded in creating an inclusive and tolerant educational environment in a religiously diverse society.

It is expected that the addition of the context of the research location at Pondok Pesantren An-Nawawi Berjan Purworejo will provide a more comprehensive picture of the implementation of Islamic educational leadership practices in promoting the construction of religious moderation-based education. In addition, this will also increase appreciation for the

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efforts made by Islamic educational institutions in the area in strengthening the values of moderation, tolerance, and social harmony in the midst of challenging times.

### **Research Method**

The research methodology for this article takes a qualitative approach and applies a case study design (Baxter & Jack, 2008). The qualitative approach was chosen because it allows researchers to explore the phenomenon contextually. The case study design was chosen because it provides an appropriate framework to document the practices and contributions of Islamic educational leadership (Arar et al., 2022), especially KH Ahmad Chalwani, in advancing religious moderation-based education at An-Nawawi Berjan Islamic Boarding School in Purworejo. Case studies allow researchers to explore the specific context of these educational institutions and analyse them comprehensively.

The research subjects consisted of leadership, teachers, and students of An-Nawawi Berjan Purworejo Islamic Boarding School who were involved in the implementation of religious moderation-based education. Data collection was conducted through in-depth interviews, direct observation, and document analysis. Interviews aimed to obtain participants' direct views and experiences related to the construction of religious moderation-based education (Wardani & Sajarah, 2022). Direct observation was used to observe daily practices in the educational environment as well as interactions between students and staff. Meanwhile, document analysis was conducted to better understand the curriculum, school policies and teaching materials relevant to religious moderation-based education.

Data analysis will be conducted using a thematic analysis approach (Creswell & Poth, 2016). This approach helps identify patterns, trends and key findings related to the construction of religious moderation-based education and the role of Islamic education leadership. To strengthen data validity, triangulation techniques will be used by combining data from multiple sources, including interviews, observations and document analyses. In addition, the research results will go through peer review to ensure the reliability and validity of the findings.

### **Result and Discussion**

The findings of this study reveal that Pondok Pesantren An-Nawawi Berjan Purworejo has successfully integrated the principles of religious moderation into their Islamic education. Concrete evidence of this success is seen in the effective implementation of the concepts of religious moderation in all aspects of life at the institution. Statistical data shows that since the implementation of these principles, there has been a significant increase in student participation in activities that support tolerance and social inclusiveness. In addition, the results of surveys of students, parents and educational staff indicate a high level of satisfaction with the educational environment promoted by Pondok Pesantren An-Nawawi Berjan Purworejo under the leadership of KH. Ahmad Chalwani. In-depth interviews with leaders and staff also revealed that the approach taken by the Islamic education leadership there not only affects

students directly, but also brings far-reaching positive impacts on the surrounding community, increasing understanding and appreciation of the diversity of religions and beliefs.

The religious moderation-based educational approach at Pondok Pesantren An-Nawawi Berjan Purworejo is reflected in their curriculum, school policies and daily teaching practices. Concrete evidence of this integration can be seen in the preparation of a well-rounded curriculum, which not only teaches religious material but also encourages a deep understanding of the values of tolerance and respect for diversity. Direct observation during the research revealed that students are not only encouraged but also actively involved in understanding and appreciating the diversity of religions and beliefs (Naim et al., 2022). Teachers at this Pondok Pesantren are actively involved in facilitating open discussions on religious issues, promoting inclusive dialogue, and encouraging students to participate in social interaction activities involving various groups in the community.

Research also shows that school policies that support this approach not only impact students directly, but also influence the social dynamics around the institution. Data from direct observations and interviews with school stakeholders confirm that this approach is not simply part of a formal policy, but is actually implemented in daily practice at Pondok Pesantren An-Nawawi Berjan Purworejo. This reflects the strong commitment of the leadership, including KH. Ahmad Chalwani, to create an educational environment that promotes peace, harmony and respect for religious diversity in this increasingly complex society.

Further discussion of these findings highlights the importance of a religious moderation-based approach in responding to the challenges of religious extremism and radicalisation (Nasir, 2021). Empirical data and evidence show that by integrating the principles of religious moderation into Islamic education, Pondok Pesantren An-Nawawi Berjan Purworejo not only increases understanding and appreciation of religious plurality among students, but also makes a significant contribution in building a more peaceful and harmonious society. The results of this study confirm that the policies and practices implemented at the institution produce an environment that supports interfaith dialogue and strong tolerance.

In addition, the research emphasises the crucial role of Islamic educational leadership, especially KH Ahmad Chalwani, in shaping a school culture that promotes the values of moderation, tolerance and diversity. Evidence from direct observation shows that strong leadership in support of these values actively influences students' attitudes and behaviour, as well as strengthening community ties around An-Nawawi Berjan Islamic Boarding School in Purworejo. Overall, this approach is not only relevant in the context of Islamic education, but also essential in efforts to build a more inclusive and harmonious society in the midst of increasingly complex religious diversity. In conclusion, this research confirms that religious moderation-based education is not only relevant, but also necessary in the context of Islamic education. The contribution of Pondok Pesantren An-Nawawi Berjan Purworejo in encouraging inclusive and tolerant education can be an example for other educational institutions in an effort to build a more harmonious society in the midst of religious diversity.

## **Conclusion**

This research highlights the importance of religious moderation-based educational construction and the key role of Islamic educational leadership, especially KH. Ahmad Chalwani, in promoting tolerance and social harmony at Pondok Pesantren An-Nawawi Berjan Purworejo. The research findings show that this educational institution has successfully integrated the values of religious moderation into the curriculum, school policies, and daily teaching practices.

Through a religious moderation-based educational approach, students are encouraged to understand and appreciate the diversity of religions and beliefs and to develop attitudes of tolerance and mutual understanding. These practices reflect the commitment of Pondok Pesantren An-Nawawi Berjan Purworejo in building an inclusive and tolerant educational environment.

In addition, this research confirms the importance of a religious moderation-based approach in responding to the challenges of religious extremism and radicalisation. By promoting the values of moderation, tolerance, and diversity, Islamic educational institutions such as Pondok Pesantren An-Nawawi Berjan Purworejo play an important role in building a peaceful and harmonious society. In conclusion, the contribution of Pondok Pesantren An-Nawawi Berjan Purworejo in promoting religious moderation-based education is an inspiring example for other educational institutions. In the era of globalisation and the complexity of multicultural societies, education that promotes the values of religious moderation is becoming increasingly relevant and important in strengthening the foundations of social harmony and tolerance in religiously diverse societies.

## **Declaration of conflicting interest**

In the article entitled CONSTRUCTION OF EDUCATION BASED ON RELIGIOUS MODERATION: The Role of Islamic Education Leadership in Promoting Tolerance and Social Harmony, we state that there is no conflict of interest and is solely to develop scientific knowledge.

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