

Building Pacifist Character: Islamic Peace Education for Indonesian Youth in Divided Communities

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The ideological and political agenda of different groups are often put forward by way of hate speech and intolerant messages towards members of different ethno-religious groups. In this context, religious education could play a key part in promoting more positive views about diversity. This article presents an investigation into the curriculum of existing Islamic Religious Education in four junior high schools in Solo, as well as teachers and students' perceptions regarding religious diversity. The research results show that the curriculum lacks content that aims at co-existence and peace education. Also, around a third of the teachers and students reported intolerant attitudes towards different religions. The results were then followed up by a pilot project to develop the Islam-based Peace Education (IPE), which aims at building pacifist character in youth, through teaching mutual respect, non-violence, social justice, and co-existence, by using Islamic values derived from al-Qur'an and Sunnah.

Keywords: character building, Islamic values, peace psychology, peace education, co-existence.

Kepentingan ideologis dan politik berbagai golongan dalam memperebutkan kuasa ditengarai telah membuat masyarakat terpecah-belah oleh perbedaan etnis dan agama, sehingga rentan terhadap ketegangan antarkelompok, konflik, dan bahkan kekerasan berdarah, termasuk yang sering terjadi pada masyarakat majemuk di kota Solo. Dalam konteks ini, pendidikan agama memegang peran kunci untuk membentuk sikap yang lebih toleran terhadap perbedaan. Artikel ini meneliti muatan kurikulum Pendidikan Agama Islam di empat SMP di Solo, dan persepsi guru serta peserta didik tentang keanekaragaman agama dan budaya. Hasil penelitian menemukan bahwa muatan kurikulum yang mengajarkan hidup berdampingan dalam keanekaragaman secara damai ternyata masih kurang memadai. Sekitar sepertiga guru dan siswa ditengarai memiliki sikap intoleran terhadap perbedaan agama. Hasil penelitian ini ditindaklanjuti dengan program rintisan Pendidikan Perdamaian Berbasis Islam (PPBI) yang bertujuan mensosialisasikan nilai-nilai keadilan, nirkekerasan, dan perdamaian sebagaimana diajarkan Islam melalui dua sumber utamanya, al-Qur'an dan Sunnah.

Kata kunci: pembentukan karakter, nilai Islam, psikologi damai, pendidikan kedamaian, hidup bersama

Social analysts assert that pelajaran agama or religious education (RE) in Indonesian schools has played positive and important roles in helping to develop students' piousness, belief in a monotheistic God as sanctioned by Pancasila, and moral characters (Pohl, 2009; Hefner & Zaman, 2005). However, some also

observe that there is a risk lurking behind this powerful agent of socialization, when the paradigm and contents conveyed by RE are exclusive and divisive (Pendidikan Karakter Bakal Diterapkan, 2011; PPIM UIN, 2008).

According to the National Education System Act 20/2003, all Indonesian students must take part in RE in accordance with their own faith (Departemen Pendidikan Nasional Sisdiknas, 2003). The Indonesian-style RE is learning about one's own religion. Muslim students study the laws of Islam and learn Arabic, Christian students study the salvation precepts through Jesus,

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