

Management of religious moderation based on state defense public universities in Yogyakarta

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Abstract. This study analyzes the management of religious moderation based on national defense at four universities in Yogyakarta: Yogyakarta State University (Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, UNY), Gadjah Mada University (Universitas Gadjah Mada, UGM), National Development University (Universitas Pembangunan Nasional, UPN), and Indonesian Institute of the Arts (Institut Seni Indonesia, ISI) Yogyakarta. The research emphasizes the importance of religious moderation in promoting harmony and respect for diversity within the academic environment in Indonesia. Using a qualitative approach with a case study design, data were collected through in-depth interviews with stakeholders, including faculty, students, and program managers, along with document analysis of curricula, policies, and programs. Observations of activities related to religious moderation and national defense were also made. The study finds that these universities effectively implement religious moderation through educational programs, seminars, and community service. While the approaches vary, all share the common goal of fostering tolerance, inclusivity, and nationalism within their academic communities.

Keywords: *Defending the State, Diversity, Higher Education, Religious Moderation, Tolerance*

Abstract. Studi ini menganalisis pengelolaan moderasi beragama berbasis bela negara di empat universitas di Yogyakarta: Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta (UNY), Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Universitas Pembangunan Nasional (UPN), dan Institut Seni Indonesia (ISI). Penelitian ini menekankan pentingnya moderasi beragama dalam mempromosikan kerukunan dan penghormatan terhadap keberagaman dalam lingkungan akademik di Indonesia. Menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan desain studi kasus, data dikumpulkan melalui wawancara mendalam dengan para pemangku kepentingan, termasuk fakultas, mahasiswa, dan manajer program, bersama dengan analisis dokumen kurikulum, kebijakan, dan program. Observasi kegiatan yang berkaitan dengan moderasi beragama dan bela negara juga dilakukan. Studi ini menemukan bahwa universitas-universitas ini secara efektif menerapkan moderasi beragama melalui program pendidikan, seminar, dan pengabdian masyarakat. Meskipun pendekatannya bervariasi, semuanya memiliki tujuan bersama untuk menumbuhkan toleransi, inklusivitas, dan nasionalisme dalam komunitas akademik mereka.

Kata Kunci: *Bela Negara, Keberagaman, Perguruan Tinggi, Moderasi Beragama, Toleransi*

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Introduction

Religious moderation and national defense are two foundational concepts that play a critical role in maintaining national harmony and unity in Indonesia. Religious moderation, in this context, refers to the promotion of tolerance, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence amidst the country's religious diversity. It encourages an understanding that accommodates differences in belief systems while upholding the values of peace and societal unity. Meanwhile, national defense emphasizes the collective responsibility of every citizen to protect the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political unity of the state. This responsibility is not solely the duty of military personnel but extends to the broader society, including universities, which serve as centers for educating and shaping future generations (Hikmawati et al., 2024). In this way, national defense in the academic context involves fostering a deep sense of patriotism, nationalism, and a shared commitment to safeguarding Indonesia's stability.

The importance of these two concepts, especially within the higher education system, cannot be overstated. Universities are not only responsible for academic excellence but also play a crucial role in shaping the character and national consciousness of students. By embedding values such as religious moderation and national defense into academic curricula and extracurricular activities, higher education institutions can nurture future leaders who are both tolerant and ready to defend the nation's interests (Nurlaili et al., 2024). In recent years, several universities have made significant strides in integrating these values into their educational frameworks.

Gadjah Mada University (Universitas Gadjah Mada, UGM), one of Indonesia's top universities, has taken proactive steps in addressing these issues by establishing the Griya Moderasi Agama dan Bela Negara (GMBBN), an initiative designed to promote religious moderation and national defense among its academic community. On December 28, 2022, UGM's rector, Prof. Dr. Ova Emilia, inaugurated 15 managers for GMBBN, underscoring the university's commitment to preventing intolerance and radicalism. The initiative emphasizes moderating religious diversity while instilling national defense attitudes, aligning with UGM's identity as a Pancasila university, which is dedicated to promoting the five principles of Pancasila as the ideological foundation of the state (Gadjah Mada University, 2022). Similarly, the Indonesia University of Education (UPI) has shown its commitment to these principles through the organization of workshops and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) aimed at developing instruments to measure religious moderation and national defense. This demonstrates UPI's efforts to infuse these values into its curriculum and broader academic activities (Indonesia University of Education, 2022).

Despite these efforts at leading institutions, the implementation of religious moderation and national defense principles at other universities in Yogyakarta, such as Yogyakarta State University (Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, UNY), "Veteran" National Development University (Universitas Pembangunan Nasional, UPN), and Indonesian Institute of the Arts (Institut Seni Indonesia, ISI) Yogyakarta, has been less explored in the literature. While these institutions certainly contribute to the promotion of religious moderation and national defense, detailed research into their specific policies, programs, and the integration of these values is limited. As such, this study seeks to fill this gap by examining how these universities in Yogyakarta manage

the integration of religious moderation based on national defense into their curricula, policies, and extracurricular activities (Prayoga, 2024).

This research is innovative in several ways. First, it adopts a comparative approach, analyzing multiple universities in Yogyakarta and examining their individual efforts to promote religious moderation and national defense. Unlike previous studies that have focused on singular institutions, this study allows for a broader understanding of how these values are implemented in diverse academic environments. Second, the study considers the role of local cultural contexts in shaping the integration of religious moderation and national defense. Previous studies on religious moderation often emphasize a general framework that does not always account for local wisdom and community-specific factors (Hermanus et al., 2024). This research builds on such studies by highlighting how local contexts influence the way these values are promoted at universities in Yogyakarta, making it a more regionally relevant study.

Furthermore, this study aligns with broader national efforts to strengthen the integration of religious moderation and national defense in educational programs. The Pancasila Ideology Development Agency (BPIP) has emphasized the importance of character education, especially in extracurricular activities, as part of efforts to instill national values and patriotism among the younger generation (Usfunan & Jimmy, 2024). Universities, as critical institutions in the development of the nation's future citizens, have a central role to play in this process. This research, therefore, not only expands on previous studies by focusing on multiple universities in Yogyakarta but also contributes to the ongoing dialogue on character education and the role of universities in cultivating the values of tolerance, diversity, and patriotism.

The findings of this study will provide valuable insights into how universities in Yogyakarta are incorporating religious moderation and national defense values into their educational programs. By examining these programs in detail, this research will highlight the challenges faced by universities in promoting these principles and identify best practices that can be adopted by other institutions. Moreover, the study will inform policymakers, educators, and other stakeholders on the role of higher education in promoting tolerance, national unity, and a sense of responsibility among students. The results could also influence the development of national policies aimed at fostering a more inclusive and patriotic society.

Ultimately, this study emphasizes the importance of collaboration between universities, the government, and the community in ensuring the effective and sustainable implementation of religious moderation and national defense programs. In doing so, it seeks to contribute to the creation of a young generation that is not only tolerant and inclusive but also well-prepared to contribute to the defense and prosperity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.

Methods

This study adopts a qualitative research design, employing a case study approach to examine the implementation of religious moderation based on national defense at four universities in Yogyakarta: Yogyakarta State University (UNY), Gadjah Mada University (UGM), National Development University (UPN), and Indonesian Institute of the Arts (ISI) Yogyakarta. A case study methodology was selected to provide an in-depth understanding of each institution's specific context, practices, and dynamics in integrating religious moderation and national defense. The qualitative approach allows for a nuanced exploration of these phenomena within the higher education environment, which is crucial in the context of Indonesia's religious and cultural diversity.

Data will be collected using a multi-method approach, including in-depth semi-structured interviews with university administrators, faculty members, and students. These interviews aim to gather insights into the perspectives and experiences of key stakeholders regarding the implementation of religious moderation and national defense. Additionally, participatory observations will be conducted during campus activities that focus on these values, such as seminars, workshops, and community engagement programs. This observational data will complement the interview findings, providing a more holistic view of the practices in place. Furthermore, document analysis will be employed to examine institutional policies, program reports, and academic curricula related to religious moderation and national defense. This triangulation of data sources—interviews, observations, and documents—will ensure a comprehensive and robust understanding of how these values are integrated into university life.

The data will be analyzed using thematic analysis, as proposed by Braun and Clarke (2024), to identify recurring themes and patterns in the implementation and impact of religious moderation and national defense policies. The thematic analysis will focus on uncovering both the successes and challenges that the universities face in promoting these values among students. Specifically, it will highlight obstacles such as resistance from certain student groups, limited resources for faculty development, and the need for more effective outreach and communication strategies. Through this analysis, the study will provide valuable insights into the practical barriers to implementing these policies and offer recommendations for improvement. Ultimately, the goal of this research is to contribute to the broader discourse on the role of higher education in fostering religious harmony and national unity in Indonesia, while also informing the development of more effective policies and programs in the future.

Results and Discussion

Implementation of Religious Moderation in Yogyakarta Campuses

The implementation of religious moderation at Yogyakarta State University (UNY), Gadjah Mada University (UGM), National Development University (UPN), and the Indonesian Institute of the Arts (ISI) Yogyakarta demonstrates a variety of approaches, yet all share a common goal: to foster a tolerant society and create harmony among religious communities. Although these institutions are culturally and academically distinct, each has successfully integrated religious moderation with national defense values, contributing to Indonesia's overarching goal of national unity. As noted by Al-Makhlūf (2019), universities are crucial spaces for promoting unity, diversity, and national solidarity, particularly in societies characterized by religious pluralism like Indonesia.

Table 1: Approach at Each University

University	Approach to Religious Moderation	National Defense Integration	Key Programs /Initiatives
UNY	Focuses on character-building and religious diversity.	Incorporates national defense into character development programs.	Seminars, training sessions, and discussions promoting tolerance and respect for religious diversity.
UGM	Pluralistic approach	Focuses on interfaith	National awareness

	combining religious moderation with interfaith solidarity.	collaboration to protect Indonesia's sovereignty.	campaigns, leadership training, interfaith workshops.
UPN	Integrates religious moderation within the academic curriculum.	Combines national defense with campus activities.	Interfaith dialogues, community service programs, and workshops on national unity and interfaith cooperation.
ISI Yogyakarta	Religious moderation is linked with art education to convey messages of tolerance.	National defense values are promoted through artistic expression.	Art-based initiatives, workshops, and projects using local culture to promote moderation and defend national values.

UNY's approach centers around embedding religious moderation in its character-building programs. These programs aim to expand students' understanding of Indonesia's religious diversity, ensuring that students learn the values of tolerance and inclusivity. By incorporating national defense values, UNY fosters a stronger sense of patriotism and a collective duty to preserve Indonesia's unity. Activities such as seminars, training, and discussions encourage students to appreciate the complexity of the country's multi-religious society. These initiatives contribute significantly to creating a more harmonious and inclusive campus environment.

UGM adopts a pluralistic approach, combining religious moderation with the values of pluralism, which emphasizes the importance of interfaith solidarity. National defense education is integrated into programs aimed at fostering a shared responsibility to protect Indonesia's sovereignty. These programs encourage students to collaborate across religious boundaries, promoting national unity. UGM's leadership training programs and national awareness campaigns are prime examples of how the university fosters a culture of mutual respect and cooperation among its diverse student body.

UPN's focus is on integrating both national defense and religious moderation within its academic curriculum. UPN organizes interfaith dialogues and community service programs that involve students from diverse religious backgrounds. These programs promote national harmony and instill a sense of national identity. The university's comprehensive approach ensures that students understand the importance of unity in diversity and their role in defending the integrity of Indonesia. The workshops and community service initiatives provide platforms for students to engage in interreligious cooperation.

At ISI, religious moderation is closely tied to art education, where students are encouraged to use artistic expression to convey messages of moderation and unity. Art becomes a powerful tool to communicate national defense values, fostering a deeper appreciation for cultural and religious diversity. This unique approach not only reinforces national unity but also encourages students to view their artistic practice as a means of promoting social change and inclusivity. ISI's integration of local culture into the promotion of national defense values helps students connect with the homeland on a deeper level, contributing to a more inclusive academic atmosphere.

Challenges in the Management of Religious Moderation Based on State Defense

Despite the considerable efforts to implement religious moderation, several challenges persist at the universities involved in this study. These challenges are not unique to these institutions but reflect broader difficulties in Indonesia's higher education system and similar contexts globally.

1. **Radicalization of Thought:** The radicalization of certain student groups remains one of the most significant challenges to the successful implementation of religious moderation programs. Pajariato et al. (2024) argue that extremist ideologies can undermine efforts to promote tolerance and inclusivity within university settings. While universities have initiated several counter-radicalization programs, the persistence of radical ideologies continues to challenge the broader goal of fostering an inclusive academic environment. Resistance to interfaith cooperation, particularly among certain student factions, complicates efforts to integrate religious moderation and national defense into campus culture.
2. **Lack of Qualified Faculty:** Another obstacle to the successful integration of religious moderation and national defense is the lack of qualified faculty members with expertise in these areas. Zega and David Folind (2024) assert that without educators who are well-versed in the principles of religious moderation and national defense, universities struggle to impart these critical values effectively. Faculty development programs are crucial for equipping lecturers with the tools to address complex issues related to religious diversity and national identity. A lack of qualified educators hinders the ability of these institutions to deliver high-quality education on topics that are essential for cultivating a tolerant, moderate, and nationally conscious generation.
3. **Limited Counseling Programs:** While counseling and mentorship programs promoting religious moderation exist, they often reach only a limited number of students. Sumadi and Tjipto (2024) argue that these programs should be expanded to encompass a broader range of students. There is a pressing need for more inclusive strategies to disseminate religious moderation principles, especially given the prevalence of digital platforms. By integrating these values into mainstream curricula or using digital platforms to disseminate information, universities can ensure that all students are engaged with the principles of moderation and national defense, rather than only those who participate in extracurricular counseling programs.

The Role of State Defense in Increasing Religious Moderation

National defense plays a crucial role in enhancing religious moderation, as it fosters a shared sense of responsibility to protect the homeland. As Azzahra and Lutfiah (2024) note, national defense activities help create a spirit of togetherness among students from different religious backgrounds, emphasizing the importance of shared national values, such as tolerance and respect for diversity. National defense goes beyond its traditional focus on physical security to include the promotion of unity, human rights, and social cohesion, all of which contribute to fostering religious moderation. Programs that integrate national defense with religious moderation challenge students to recognize how their identities as citizens intersect with their religious beliefs, thereby strengthening their commitment to maintaining national unity.

At the university level, the integration of state defense into religious moderation initiatives ensures that students are not only prepared to defend the country physically but also mentally

and socially, equipped with the understanding that their collective responsibility extends to safeguarding Indonesia's pluralistic society.

Success and Impact of Religious Moderation Programs

The integration of religious moderation and national defense at UNY, UGM, UPN, and ISI Yogyakarta has led to positive outcomes, including an increase in mutual respect among students from different religious backgrounds and a heightened awareness of the importance of national unity. Ma'mun and Sukron (2022) found that educational initiatives, such as campus-wide seminars, workshops, and leadership programs, have helped foster a more tolerant and inclusive academic environment. These initiatives provide a platform for interfaith dialogue, contributing to the development of a stronger sense of national identity. Students are encouraged to embrace diversity and recognize the value of unity in the context of Indonesia's rich religious and cultural tapestry.

The integration of national defense values has reinforced these outcomes by providing students with a framework to understand their role in preserving national unity and defending Indonesia's sovereignty. Programs at UNY, UGM, and ISI Yogyakarta have shown that when religious moderation is combined with national defense education, students are more likely to internalize the values of inclusivity, tolerance, and patriotism. However, challenges such as radicalization, the shortage of qualified educators, and the limited scope of counseling programs suggest the need for a more comprehensive approach to integrating these values across the university curriculum and campus activities.

The findings from this study suggest that a more holistic approach is necessary to fully integrate religious moderation and national defense into higher education. Future research should explore the long-term effects of these programs on students' behaviors and attitudes post-graduation. Additionally, the role of digital platforms in supporting religious moderation and national defense education could be further examined to assess how technology can be leveraged to reach a wider audience.

This study, while focusing on four universities in Yogyakarta, provides valuable insights into the integration of religious moderation and national defense in Indonesian higher education. Comparative studies across other regions in Indonesia and Southeast Asia would provide a broader perspective on the challenges and successes in fostering religious tolerance and national unity within diverse academic environments.

Conclusion

The management of religious moderation based on national defense at Yogyakarta's universities—namely Yogyakarta State University (Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, UNY), Gadjah Mada University (Universitas Gadjah Mada, UGM), National Development University (Universitas Pembangunan Nasional, UPN), and Indonesian Institute of the Arts (Institut Seni Indonesia, ISI) Yogyakarta—demonstrates a concerted effort to integrate values of tolerance, religious diversity, and patriotism among students. Each university has employed distinct approaches based on their unique academic and cultural environments, yet all share the common goal of fostering a tolerant society and ensuring national unity amidst Indonesia's diverse religious landscape. From character development programs at UNY to interfaith activities at UGM, and art-based religious moderation at ISI, these initiatives contribute significantly to

shaping students' national and religious identity. However, challenges such as radicalization, a shortage of trained human resources, and the need for more effective counseling programs persist. The presence of extreme ideologies within student groups and the limited capacity of educators trained in religious moderation and national defense highlight the ongoing obstacles that universities must address to create safe and inclusive environments. Additionally, while progress has been made in fostering interfaith dialogue, the integration of these values requires ongoing efforts and systematic evaluation to ensure long-term impact. The implications of this study suggest that higher education plays a critical role in shaping the future of Indonesia's religious moderation and national defense policies. The involvement of universities in embedding Pancasila and the spirit of Bhineka Tunggal Ika into their curricula and campus activities is essential in building a generation that is not only tolerant but also committed to the unity and integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. The contribution of this study lies in its exploration of the diverse approaches to religious moderation at universities and the examination of how national defense education can enhance these efforts, providing a practical framework for other institutions seeking to address similar challenges. Future research should expand to include universities outside Yogyakarta to provide a more comprehensive understanding of how these programs are implemented across Indonesia. It would also be valuable to investigate the long-term effects of these programs on graduates, particularly their ability to apply the principles of religious moderation and national defense in their professional and social lives. Furthermore, research could explore the role of digital platforms in supporting the dissemination of religious moderation values, especially as technology continues to shape educational practices and student engagement. Ultimately, the continued development of programs that integrate religious moderation and national defense in higher education will be crucial in fostering a peaceful, unified, and democratic Indonesia. Universities must remain vigilant in adapting their strategies to tackle the emerging challenges of intolerance and radicalization while ensuring that their teachings continue to reflect the nation's commitment to diversity, tolerance, and national integrity.

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