

The Influence of Religious Education in Muslim Families on Understanding Peace and Tolerance

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Abstract: This study reveals the complexity of the influence of religious education in Muslim families on children's understanding of peace and tolerance. This study utilises library research by conducting an integrative and comprehensive literature analysis to investigate existing conceptual frameworks, evaluate findings from various previous studies, and identify knowledge gaps in the relevant literature. The study's results stated that religious education provided in the family has a significant impact on shaping the attitudes and actions of children related to peace and tolerance. Religious instruction focusing on human values, compassion, and justice in their religious context makes children more likely to promote peace and value religious diversity. Therefore, the development of religious education that is balanced, inclusive, and oriented to the values of peace within the Muslim family has great potential to contribute to creating a more harmonious and inclusive society.

Keywords: Religious Education; Muslim Family; Peace; Tolerance.

Abstrak: Kajian ini mengungkapkan kompleksitas pengaruh pendidikan agama dalam keluarga Muslim terhadap pemahaman anak-anak tentang perdamaian dan toleransi. Kajian ini memanfaatkan studi pustaka dengan melakukan analisis literatur secara integratif dan komprehensif untuk menyelidiki kerangka kerja konseptual yang ada, mengevaluasi temuan dari berbagai kajian terdahulu, dan mengidentifikasi kesenjangan pengetahuan yang masih ada dalam literatur yang relevan. Hasil kajian menyatakan bahwa pendidikan agama yang diberikan dalam keluarga memiliki dampak yang signifikan dalam membentuk sikap dan tindakan anak-anak terkait perdamaian dan toleransi. Pendidikan agama yang berfokus pada nilai-nilai kemanusiaan, kasih sayang, dan keadilan dalam konteks agama mereka menghasilkan anak-anak yang lebih cenderung mempromosikan perdamaian dan menghargai keberagaman agama. Oleh karena itu, pengembangan pendidikan agama yang seimbang, inklusif, dan berorientasi pada nilai-nilai perdamaian di dalam keluarga Muslim memiliki potensi besar untuk berkontribusi dalam menciptakan masyarakat yang lebih harmonis dan inklusif.

Kata Kunci: Pendidikan Agama; Keluarga Muslim; Perdamaian; Toleransi.

INTRODUCTION

Religious education in Muslim families is critical in shaping an individual's understanding of peace and tolerance. Religious education taught in the family environment is one of the main foundations in shaping a person's values, beliefs, and attitude toward the surrounding world. The family is the first environment in which the individual is exposed to religious matters.¹ In Muslim families, the teachings of Islam often become an integral part of everyday life.² As the most influential figures in children's education, parents are crucial in transmitting religious values, such as compassion, generosity, peace, and tolerance, to the younger generation. This means religious education in Muslim families can provide a solid foundation for understanding peace and tolerance.

It is important to note that religious education in the family includes theological aspects and how individuals internalize these values daily.³ This process involves various elements, ranging from worship practices, such as prayer and fasting, to ethics in interacting with others. As individuals grow, the influence of religious education in the family continues to impact how they understand the concepts of peace and tolerance. In addition, religious education in Muslim families can also help to form a positive attitude towards cultural and religious diversity.

Islam teaches tolerance towards followers of other religions and emphasizes the importance of peaceful coexistence in a diverse society.⁴

¹ Suud Sarim Karimullah and Arif Sugitanata, "Pembaharuan Konsep Kafa'ah Dalam Perkawinan," *Jurnal Keislaman* 5, no. 1 (2022): 63–74, doi:10.54298/jk.v5i1.3404; Ria Astuti and Erni Munastiwi, "Digital Parenting: Utilizing Technology to Instill Islamic Education Values in Young Children," *TADRI: Jurnal Pendidikan Islam* 17, no. 2 (2022): 365–79, doi:10.19105/tjpi.v17i2.7468.

² Suud Sarim Karimullah, "The Urgency of Building Good Communication in Muslim Families and Its Implementation on Children's Mental Health," *JADID: Journal of Quranic Studies and Islamic Communication* 2, no. 2 (2022): 216–34, doi:10.33754/jadid.v3i02.689; Sutarto Sutarto, "Kontribusi Keluarga Dalam Menanamkan Nilai-Nilai Pendidikan Islam Untuk Membentuk Karakter Islami Remaja," *Belajea: Jurnal Pendidikan Islam* 8, no. 1 (2023): 67–86, doi:10.29240/belajea.v8i1.6602.

³ Fitri Yolanda and Hendra Harmi, "Peran Orang Tua Tunggal Dalam Penanaman Nilai-Nilai Pendidikan Islam Di Desa Sambirejo Kecamatan Selupu Rejang," *Belajea: Jurnal Pendidikan Islam* 8, no. 1 (2023): 87–94, doi:10.29240/belajea.v8i1.5028; Karliana Indrawari et al., "Penerapan Nilai Pendidikan Islam Dalam Keluarga Melalui Prophetic Parenting Dalam Pembentukan Akhlak Anak Usia Emas Di Desa Bukit Barisan," *Belajea: Jurnal Pendidikan Islam* 6, no. 2 (2021): 181–94, doi:10.29240/belajea.v6i2.3417.

⁴ Suud Sarim Karimullah, Mu'adil Faizin, and Aufa Islami, "Internalization of Islamic Moderation Values in Building a Civilization of Love and Tolerance," *Al-Insyiroh: Jurnal Studi Keislaman* 9, no. 1 (2023): 94–125, doi:https://doi.org/10.35309/alinsyiroh.v9i1.6345; Muhammad Taqiyuddin, "Penanaman Toleransi Dalam Pembelajaran Akidah Akhlak Di

Therefore, religious education in Muslim families can also prepare individuals to become agents of change that promote peace and tolerance in an increasingly multicultural society. However, it is worth remembering that the influence of religious education in the family is not always uniform. Factors such as parents' approach to teaching religion, individual experiences in the family, and the influence of the external environment also play an essential role in shaping the understanding of peace and tolerance.

Understanding peace and tolerance is becoming increasingly urgent in an era of globalization and intense intercultural interaction. As one of the major religions in the world, Islam has a significant role in shaping the worldview of individuals and societies. Therefore, understanding how religious education in Muslim families affects the understanding of peace and tolerance is a critical first step in finding solutions to frequent conflicts and tensions between religious and cultural groups. It is also essential to consider how social media and digital technologies affect understanding religion, peace, and tolerance. How Muslim families view and regulate the use of these technologies in the context of religious education may significantly impact their views on spiritual values, tolerance, and peace.

Social tensions that often arise due to differences in beliefs, cultures, and ideologies also raise fundamental questions about the role of various social institutions, especially the family, in shaping individuals' attitudes toward the values of peace and tolerance.⁵ In this regard, the family, especially Muslim families, is the first and primary educational space believed to have significant potential in instilling these values. Religious education within the family not only shapes an individual's religious worldview but also has the potential to instill an awareness of the importance of living peacefully alongside others with different backgrounds. Therefore, exploring in depth how religious education within Muslim families influences understanding of peace and tolerance is highly relevant and urgent in the contemporary context.

LITERATUR REVIEW

Previous literature on the influence of religious education in the family on individuals' understanding of peace and tolerance provides a variety of

Madrasah Aliyah Swasta Tazakka," *Belajea: Jurnal Pendidikan Islam* 7, no. 2 (2022): 157–68, doi:10.29240/belajea.v7i2.5678.

⁵ Anthony J Marsella, "Culture and Conflict: Understanding, Negotiating, and Reconciling Conflicting Constructions of Reality," *International Journal of Intercultural Relations* 29, no. 6 (2005): 651–73, doi:10.1016/j.ijintrel.2005.07.012; Brenda Almond, "Education for Tolerance: Cultural Difference and Family Values," *Journal of Moral Education* 39, no. 2 (2010): 131–43, doi:10.1080/03057241003754849.

perspectives, most of which agree that inclusive and humanistic religious education is critical in shaping positive attitudes toward tolerance. A study by Imron Arifin and Aan Fardani Ubaidillah, for example, clearly shows that religious education in the family that emphasizes values such as empathy, respect for other groups, and social responsibility significantly contributes to increased tolerance and a good understanding of peace among young people.⁶ Their findings support the idea that families that practice religious education with a strong emphasis on humanistic aspects can create a generation that is more aware of the importance of tolerance in social life.

Other studies in line with these findings show that in Muslim societies, religious education that explicitly teaches Islamic principles of peace, tolerance, and harmonious coexistence in diversity positively impacts individuals' attitudes toward religious and cultural differences.⁷ Collectively, these studies illustrate how a deep understanding of authentic religious teachings, not merely formal doctrines, but a substantial appreciation of the values of peace, can positively shape individuals' perceptions and behaviors toward others from different backgrounds. However, this phenomenon must also be understood as a complex and dynamic relationship that does not always unfold linearly or uniformly.

The complexity of the relationship between religious education in the family and attitudes toward tolerance and peace has also been highlighted by studies that emphasize the role of external factors. Drajati Ekaningtyas, in her research, found that even though families provide strong religious education, environmental factors such as social interactions outside the home, peer influence, and the educational atmosphere at school also greatly influence how individuals internalize and manifest the values of peace and tolerance in their daily lives.⁸ This means that the effectiveness of religious education within the

⁶ Imron Arifin and Aan Fardani Ubaidillah, "Religion Education with Beyond the Wall Model to Promote Tolerant Behavior in The Plural Society of Indonesia," in *International Conference on Learning Innovation (ICLI 2017)* (Atlantis Press, 2017), 182–86, doi:10.2991/icli-17.2018.35.

⁷ Kasinyo Harto, "Model Pengembangan Pendidikan Agama Islam Berbasis Multikultural," *Al-Tahrir: Jurnal Pemikiran Islam* 14, no. 2 (2014): 407–26, doi:10.21154/al-tahrir.v14i2.122; Robert A Dowd, "Religious Diversity and Religious Tolerance: Lessons from Nigeria," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 60, no. 4 (2016): 617–44, doi:10.1177/0022002714550085; Maykel Verkuyten, Kumar Yogeeswaran, and Levi Adelman, "Intergroup Toleration and Its Implications for Culturally Diverse Societies," *Social Issues and Policy Review* 13, no. 1 (2019): 5–35, doi:10.1111/sipr.12051.

⁸ Ni Luh Drajati Ekaningtyas, "Psikologi Komunikasi Untuk Memaksimalkan Internalisasi Nilai-Nilai Toleransi Pada Anak Usia Dini," *Pratama Widya: Jurnal Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini* 5, no. 1 (2020): 14–20, doi:10.25078/pw.v5i1.1355.

family cannot be understood in isolation without considering how individuals interact with their broader environment. In other words, the influence of religious education provided by the family must always be seen as part of a complex social system where interactions between various elements contribute to the outcomes in individuals' attitudes and behaviors.

Looking further, in the current global context, where challenges of inter-religious and intergroup conflict are increasing, a deep understanding of the contribution of religious education in Muslim families is an urgent need. In many parts of the world, including countries with large Muslim populations such as Indonesia, Pakistan, and the Middle East, religious education in the family is often the first place where individuals gain an understanding of how they should interact with people of different beliefs.⁹ In this context, families become strategic entities with the potential to act as agents of peace if they can convey religious education that genuinely reflects the universal values of Islam regarding compassion, mercy, and justice. Previous studies have shown that family religious education can shape individuals' attitudes toward peace and tolerance. Still, they also highlight the importance of considering other factors that moderate this influence.

Therefore, this study seeks to deepen understanding of the complexity of this relationship and provide a more comprehensive insight into the role of religious education in Muslim families in shaping an individual sense of tolerance. By reviewing existing literature and adding new knowledge, this study is expected to contribute to efforts to promote peace, tolerance, and better understanding among different religious and cultural groups.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study utilises a library research by conducting an integrative and comprehensive literature analysis. This approach will allow researchers to investigate existing conceptual frameworks, evaluate findings from past studies, and identify knowledge gaps in the relevant literature. This integrative and comprehensive literature analysis will include searching and reviewing multiple sources such as scientific journal articles, books, theses, and related publications. Researchers will look for literature relevant to the study topic, including studies

⁹ Jonas Kolb, "Muslim Diversity, Religious Formation and Islamic Religious Education. Everyday Practical Insights into Muslim Parents' Concepts of Religious Education in Austria," *British Journal of Religious Education* 45, no. 2 (2023): 172–85, doi:10.1080/01416200.2021.1911787; Nur Ali et al., "Interreligious Literacy Learning as a Counter-Radicalization Method: A New Trend among Institutions of Islamic Higher Education in Indonesia," *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 32, no. 4 (2021): 383–405, doi:10.1080/09596410.2021.1996978.

examining the influence of religious education in Muslim families on understanding peace and tolerance.

During the literature analysis, the researcher will identify the main themes that emerged in previous studies, compare the findings, and evaluate the methodology used. Thus, the researcher will establish a solid theoretical foundation for the investigation to help design a suitable and relevant research framework. By applying an integrative and comprehensive literature analysis, this study will combine insights from various literary sources to better understand the influence of religious education in Muslim families on understanding peace and tolerance. In addition, it will also help researchers identify existing knowledge gaps in the literature that can be filled with our research findings, contributing meaningfully to a deeper understanding of the topic.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The Role of Religious Education in Muslim Families

Religious education in a Muslim family is an integral element in the formation of the individual's values, beliefs, and religious identity.¹⁰ The family was the first institution where individuals were exposed to spiritual teachings and practices. In the context of Islam, religious education in the family has a central role in introducing children to the teachings of Islam and helping them understand the depth of the instructions. Therefore, exploring the crucial role religious education plays in Muslim families is essential.

Religious education in Muslim families is not only about formal teaching but also involves the transmission of spiritual values and ethics in everyday life. In this context, religious education teaches principles such as compassion, generosity, patience, and tolerance, which are the moral foundations of individuals throughout their lives. The family serves as the primary vehicle through which these values are applied in daily practice, shaping the character and behavior of the individual. In addition, religious education in the family also helps to root religious beliefs in children. It is vital in shaping their religious identity and connecting them to the broader Muslim community. Through stories, prayers, and religious rituals in a family setting, children develop an understanding of who they are as Muslims and how Islam governs their worldview.

¹⁰ Ismail Ismail, "Character Education Based on Religious Values: An Islamic Perspective," *Ta'dib: Jurnal Pendidikan Islam* 21, no. 1 (2016): 41–58, doi:10.19109/td.v21i1.744; J Mark Halstead, "Moral Education in Family Life: The Effects of Diversity," *Journal of Moral Education* 28, no. 3 (1999): 265–81, doi:10.1080/030572499103070.

Religious education in the family also provides an opportunity to understand Islamic principles of peace and tolerance. Islam, as a religion of peace, teaches the importance of maintaining peace and seeks to coexist with people from different religious backgrounds.¹¹ Therefore, religious education in the family provides an opportunity to explain the concept of peace and emphasize the importance of tolerance for differences in beliefs. However, challenges arise in an increasingly complex modern context. In the age of technology and globalization, children are exposed to various sources of information outside their families. Social Media, the internet, and friends can provide different perspectives on the world, including religious views. Therefore, religious education in the family must provide a solid understanding that can withstand challenges and stimulate critical reflection on spiritual values and concepts of peace and tolerance.

The main challenge in carrying out the role of religious education in Muslim families is maintaining the relevance and resilience of spiritual values amid a constantly changing flow of information and culture. Globalization has brought influences from different cultures and religions, which can lead to conflicts between traditional religious values and contemporary trends. Therefore, religious education in the family must be able to accommodate these changes without compromising religion's core teachings. In addition, it should also be noted that religious education in the family should focus on deep understanding and not just rote memorization without knowledge. Children must be given a solid understanding of spiritual, moral, and ethical concepts to apply those values daily. Religious education that is coercive or only oriented towards memorization can cause confusion and dissatisfaction in children.

Religious education in the family must also be inclusive and respect the diversity of views in Islam itself. Islam has a variety of traditions and schools that differ in terms of religious interpretation and practice. Families should make room for questions and discussions so children can understand the diversity of views and develop as critical and independent-thinking individuals. In addition, it is necessary to consider the role of parents in setting a good example in the practice of religion and moral values. Children often observe their parents' actions more than their words. Therefore, parents who deeply understand faith and practice religious values in everyday life will set a strong example for their children.

¹¹ Suud Sarim Karimullah, "The Concept of Love in Islamic Thought: Between Spirituality and Human Relations," *Studi Multidisipliner: Jurnal Kajian Keislaman* 10, no. 2 (2023): 17–38, doi:10.24952/multidisipliner.v10i2.8754; Suud Sarim Karimullah, "The Family Environment's Impact on Human Values in Progressive Islamic Education," *At-Tarbiawi: Jurnal Kajian Kependidikan Islam* 8, no. 2 (2023): 89–104, doi:10.22515/attarbiawi.v8i2.7704.

In the face of challenges and opportunities in exercising the role of religious education in Muslim families, it is essential to understand that practical approaches may differ from family to family. Each family has its unique dynamics, cultural background, and environment. Therefore, flexibility in the process of religious education is essential. Culturing spiritual values in the family must be carried out sensitively to the child's developmental stage. Children of different ages may require different approaches to spiritual learning. For younger children, religious education may focus more on narratives and stories that are easy to understand, while adolescents may need more context and deep understanding. In addition, religious education in the family must also include elements that are interesting and relevant to children. This can involve using technology to visualize religious concepts, holding family discussions about contemporary moral issues related to religion, or even joint trips to places of worship to support a practical understanding of faith.

Muslim families can plan time to learn together about their religion. This could involve reading together scripture, discussing relevant verses or hadiths, or participating in religious education programs offered by the local community or mosque. In this way, religious education becomes a continuous experience that strengthens family ties. In addition, teaching children to serve and give to others is an integral part of religious education. It creates a deep understanding of the values of empathy, generosity, and devotion to one's neighbor, which are the values that promote peace and tolerance in society. Involving families in charitable activities such as helping the disadvantaged, contributing to charity, or participating in social activities can also be an essential part of religious education.

Religious education in the family helps children understand values such as honesty, integrity, and responsibility. It is an essential foundation for the development of solid ethics and morals. When individuals deeply understand these values, they tend to be better able to make good decisions in various aspects of their lives. In addition, religious education also helps teach children about the importance of empathy and solidarity with fellow human beings. The Muslim religion's concept of alms, giving, and sharing gives individuals a social responsibility to help the less fortunate. It promotes an inclusive attitude and a sense of concern for the wider community.

Religious education in the family also plays a role in shaping an individual's identity as a Muslim. This creates a strong connection with their religious beliefs and increases a sense of attachment to the larger Muslim community. When individuals feel strong in their religious identity, they tend to be more confident and able to contribute positively to society. However, the role of religious education in the family must also be balanced with an

understanding of plurality and diversity in society. Children need to be taught to respect other people's beliefs and cultures, even if they are different from their own. It forms the basis for tolerance, respect for differences, and promoting peace in an increasingly multicultural society.

It is important to remember that religious education in Muslim families also plays a crucial role in bridging the generation gap. In a modern age full of information and external influences, children are often exposed to different understandings and values from their parents. Religious education in the family can be a means to convey a proper and deep sense of religion to the younger generation. In addition, the role of religious education in the family can help children cope with the pressures and moral challenges of the modern world. They will have a solid understanding of the ethical and moral values they hold dear, which can help them make good decisions in situations that may be confusing. Furthermore, religious education in the family can inspire and motivate children to engage in social and charitable activities. With a deep understanding of spiritual teachings that encourage kindness and social care, children can feel inspired to contribute to improving the world around them and helping those in need.

In today's global context, where interreligious and intercultural conflicts are still a problem, the role of religious education in Muslim families is becoming increasingly important in promoting peace, tolerance, and understanding between religious groups. Children who grow up with a deep understanding of their religion can also be agents of change that contribute to interreligious dialogue and efforts to build harmonious relationships between different religious groups. However, to perform protectively, it is essential for parents and older family members to constantly improve their understanding of religion, update their knowledge, and continue to discuss religious values so that religious education in the family remains relevant and in-depth according to the changing times.

Children's Understanding of Religion and Its Impact on Peace and Tolerance

Children's understanding of religion is vital in shaping their character and worldview.¹² Religious education received during childhood and adolescence

¹² Hilyah Ashoumi, M Kris Yuan Hidayatulloh, and Dwiky Maulana Ashari, "Character Building: Strategies to Build Student's Moderate Attitudes in Madrasah Culture," *TADRIS: Jurnal Pendidikan Islam* 18, no. 1 (2023): 36–51, doi:10.19105/tjpi.v18i1.8360; Evi Fatimatur Rusydiyah et al., "Integration of Islamic Religious Education Learning in Mathematics as an Effort to Strengthen Student Character Education," *TADRIS: Jurnal Pendidikan Islam* 18, no. 1 (2023): 1–20, doi:10.19105/tjpi.v18i1.7073.

significantly impacts how they perceive their religion, values, and beliefs. It is essential to explore the child's understanding of religion and how this understanding can affect their views on peace and tolerance. Childhood and adolescence are critical periods in a child's development. It is the moment they begin to form the identity and values that will guide them in adult life. In this context, religious education, whether through home teaching or in religious schools, has a central role in shaping their understanding of spiritual teachings and moral values.

The impact of children's understanding of religion on peace is real. When children understand that their religious teachings encourage peace, compassion, and tolerance toward others, they are more likely to become individuals who support peace in society. They can see their religion as a source of inspiration to build harmonious relationships with individuals from different religious and cultural backgrounds. However, it is worth remembering that various factors can influence a child's understanding of religion. Unbalanced teaching, disagreements between adults in their families or communities, and influences from the surrounding environment, including friends and the media, can all affect how children understand their religion. Therefore, it is necessary to provide a deep and balanced understanding of religion that includes the values of peace and tolerance.

Allowing children to ask questions and discuss their religion is also important. Their questions should be valued and answered appropriately to their development stage. It helps them understand religious concepts better and develop a deep understanding. Children's knowledge of religion also has an impact on tolerance. When they know their religion teaches the importance of respecting others, even those of different faiths, they are more likely to be tolerant and inclusive individuals. They will see religious differences as a source of wealth and diversity in society, not a reason for conflict.

As part of religious education, it is essential to introduce concepts such as compassion, justice, empathy, and brotherhood in almost all religions. These values encourage individuals to behave well towards their fellow human beings and maintain societal peace. In addition, religious education should also provide a deep understanding of the history of religion and how these religions have shaped human civilization.¹³ It helps children understand the diversity of faiths

¹³ Zakiyuddin Baidhaw, "Building Harmony and Peace through Multiculturalist Theology-based Religious Education: An Alternative for Contemporary Indonesia," *British Journal of Religious Education* 29, no. 1 (2007): 15–30, doi:10.1080/01416200601037478; Benoît Vermander, "Sinicizing Religions, Sinicizing Religious Studies," *Religions* 10, no. 2 (2019): 137, doi:10.3390/rel10020137.

and cultures worldwide and appreciate their contributions to promoting peace and tolerance.

Effective religious education should also encourage children to use spiritual teachings as a source of inspiration to perform good actions and contribute to solving social problems. They should be invited to participate in charitable activities, humanitarian programs, or peace initiatives consistent with their religious values. However, it is worth remembering that religious education should not be a tool to crystallize children's understanding without leaving room for questions and reflections. Children should be free to ask questions, doubt, and seek a more profound experience. This is part of a healthy learning process and helps them develop a mature understanding of religion and the values it contains.

Religious education should also include understanding conflict and how to resolve conflicts that may arise in a spiritual context. Children must understand that conflicts are part of human life, but peaceful and constructive ways exist to fix them. This education can provide communication skills, negotiating, and finding solutions that promote peace. In addition, in an increasingly connected global context, children should also be given an understanding of global challenges that may be related to religion, such as extremism or interreligious conflict. They need to know how to identify potential signs of these threats and how to report them to the appropriate authorities.

Religious education should also include an understanding of other religions. Children need to be allowed to learn about religions that are different from their own. This helps them develop an attitude of mutual respect and understanding of the similarities and differences between religions. In addition, it also helps to avoid stereotypes and prejudices that may arise due to incomprehension towards other religions. Furthermore, to build a deeper understanding of religion, it is essential to encourage children to ask questions and discuss. They should feel comfortable asking questions, doubting, and seeking answers to their doubts about religion. This is essential to their critical thinking development and helps them deepen their understanding. In this case, religious education can also incorporate elements of active interreligious dialogue. Meetings or forums involving representatives of different religions can be a suitable means of promoting dialogue and more profound understanding between religions. It helps children see that peace and tolerance can be gained through open dialogue and mutual understanding.

Creating an inclusive and supportive environment in religious education is also essential. Children should feel accepted and respected in expressing their

religious beliefs without fear of discrimination or oppression. It creates an environment where they can feel comfortable sharing their views on religion and a strong foundation for building tolerance. In addition, religious education should also involve understanding the history of religions and how these religions have played a role in the development of human civilization. It helps children understand the diversity of religions and cultures worldwide and appreciate their contributions to promoting peace and tolerance.

Good religious education should also motivate children to make spiritual teachings a source of inspiration to perform good actions and contribute to solving social problems.¹⁴ They should be invited to participate in charitable activities, humanitarian programs, or peace initiatives consistent with their religious values. In this regard, religious education in the family and school environment must be carried out with an open and inclusive approach. This opens the door to better interreligious and intercultural dialogue, where individuals of different faiths can understand and respect each other.¹⁵ Furthermore, parents, educators, and communities must work together to provide effective religious education. Collaboration between families, schools, and spiritual communities can offer a holistic approach that helps children understand and apply religious values.

Children's understanding of religion and its impact on peace and tolerance is crucial in shaping a harmonious and inclusive society in this increasingly complex and diverse world. Providing in-depth, inclusive religious education and encouraging real action based on spiritual values can help children become individuals who support peace and tolerance in an increasingly complex and challenging world. It is an essential investment in creating a better society for the future.

The Influence of Religious Education on Attitudes and Actions of Muslim Children Regarding Peace and Tolerance

Religious education has a vital role in shaping the attitudes and actions of Muslim children regarding peace and tolerance. A deep understanding of

¹⁴ Louis W Fry, "Toward a Theory of Spiritual Leadership," *The Leadership Quarterly* 14, no. 6 (2003): 693–727, doi:10.1016/j.leaqua.2003.09.001; Robert A Emmons, "Is Spirituality an Intelligence? Motivation, Cognition, and the Psychology of Ultimate Concern," *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion* 10, no. 1 (2000): 3–26, doi:10.1207/S15327582IJPR1001_2; Suud Sarim Karimullah, "Motivasi Pendidikan Dalam Retorika Dakwah Lora Thohir," *Mawaiq: Jurnal Dakwah Dan Pengembangan Sosial Kemanusiaan* 13, no. 1 (2022): 65–86, doi:https://doi.org/10.32923/maw.v13i1.2382.

¹⁵ Tita Pertama Wati et al., "Consistency of Balinese Family Education in Forming a Love of Culture From an Early Childhood," *Devotion Journal of Community Service* 3, no. 11 (2022): 1–126, doi:10.36418/dev.v3i11.221.

religion and its inherent values is critical to creating a more harmonious and inclusive society in an increasingly multicultural and globally connected community. Religious education provides a strong foundation for children to understand the role of religion in their lives and how religion can be a tool for promoting peace and tolerance.

Religious education is central to equipping Muslim children with knowledge of their own religious beliefs. It includes an understanding of the teachings, rituals, and values that underlie the religion of Islam. By understanding their religion better, children can feel more assertive in their religious identity and have a deeper understanding of values held high in Islam, such as compassion, justice, and brotherhood.

Religious education also helps children understand the role of religion in broader social and cultural contexts.¹⁶ They learn how their faith interacts with the community around them and with other religions that exist in that community. This helps them avoid prejudices and stereotypes against other religious individuals or groups. Religious education also provides an opportunity for children to understand religious differences better. They learn that other religions have different beliefs and practices, but also that there are universal values that all faiths can understand and respect. This creates a foundation for tolerance, where children can learn to respect differences and seek common ground with individuals from different religious backgrounds.

Religious education can also provide an understanding of the history and contribution of religion in promoting peace. Children can learn examples of religious figures essential in mediating conflict, rallying for peace, and promoting tolerance. This inspired them to follow in the footsteps of those who fought for peace and tolerance in a religious context. In addition, religious education should also include an understanding of how religion can play a role in concrete actions to promote peace and tolerance. Children must be allowed to participate in charitable activities, humanitarian programs, or peace initiatives that align with their religious values. It helps them feel the fundamental concept of religion as a tool for creating positive societal changes.

Effective religious education should also create space for children to discuss and dialogue on spiritual, moral, and ethical issues. It helps them develop critical thinking skills and a deeper understanding of the complexity of

¹⁶ Mega Selvi Maharani and Yessi Rahmaniar, "Moderasi Beragama Pada Kurikulum Pendidikan Agama Islam Di Madrasah," *Belajea: Jurnal Pendidikan Islam* 8, no. 1 (2023): 51–66, doi:10.29240/belajea.v8i1.6436; Mahrus Mahrus and Suud Sarim Karimullah, "Analysis of Educational Policy in the Framework of Learning Efficiency and Effectiveness," *FIKROTUNA: Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Manajemen Islam* 16, no. 02 (2022): 1–17, doi:10.32806/jf.v16i02.6179.

these issues. Open dialogue also creates an opportunity to resolve possible misconceptions or prejudices. Furthermore, in educating children about religion, it is essential to focus on religious teachings that encourage compassion, justice, and peace. Too often, statements like this are overlooked in the media spotlight or in public discussions that more often highlight extremism or religious tensions. Therefore, religious education should be the stage to promote these positive values.

It is also essential to understand that religious education should be adapted to the child's development level. Younger children need a more straightforward and concrete approach, while older children can engage in more complex and abstract discussions.¹⁷ Therefore, teachers and educators must understand child development well to convey religious education materials effectively.

In an increasingly multicultural society, religious education must also include understanding other religions. It helps children understand interreligious differences and similarities and avoid prejudice or incomprehension. Interfaith programs or visits to places of worship of various faiths can be essential to inclusive religious education. In addition, it should be emphasized that religious education is a long-term investment in creating individuals who support peace and tolerance.¹⁸ In the long run, good religious education can help reduce religious tensions, conflicts, and acts of extremism. This is a significant contribution to creating a safer and more peaceful society.

Religious education should also include understanding contemporary issues related to religion, such as religious conflict, radicalization, and extremism. Children need to be given an understanding of how these factors can affect peace in society. It also helps them develop critical skills in identifying signs of radicalization or intolerance within their environment. In the context of religious education, it is essential to teach children how to think independently and critically about religion. They should be prepared to dig deeper into their religious beliefs, ask questions, and seek more profound understanding. Religious education that provides tools for critical thinking helps children

¹⁷ Suwarni Suwarni et al., "Inclusive Sexual Education: Integrating Gender Approaches in Learning," *AL-ISHLAH: Jurnal Pendidikan* 16, no. 1 (2024): 416–27, doi:10.35445/alishlah.v16i1.4690.

¹⁸ Suud Sarim Karimullah and Arif Sugitanata, "The Government's Strategies for Promoting Religious Tolerance in a Multicultural Society," *Journal of Religious Policy* 2, no. 1 (2023): 75–102; Imam Sya'ei, M Asy'ari, and Cicik Aini, "Development of a Moderation-Based Islamic Education Learning Model in Efforts to Strengthen Student Tolerance at Public Universities in Lampung and Banten Provinces," *Tadris: Jurnal Pendidikan Islam* 17, no. 2 (2022): 335–47, doi:10.19105/tjpi.v17i2.7030.

become individuals who can better distinguish between spiritual teachings that promote peace and messages that can be misused for extremism or intolerance.

Religious education can also play a role in addressing social and economic inequalities often associated with spiritual conflict.¹⁹ By teaching the values of solidarity, justice, and empathy embodied in spiritual teachings, children can be prepared to play a role in efforts to address social inequalities and promote sustainable peace. Furthermore, creating a safe and inclusive educational environment is critical in developing children's understanding of religion and tolerance. Children should feel comfortable discussing their religion, asking questions, and discussing without fear of being ridiculed or labeled as different. Teachers and educators have a crucial role in creating this supportive atmosphere.

Religious education should also include understanding the impact of globalization and Information Technology on spiritual dynamics. Children need to be given the tools to overcome the challenges and opportunities that arise in this increasingly connected world. They should learn about online extremism and intolerance spread through social media and how they can be discerning and critical consumers of religious information. Furthermore, it is also essential to integrate interfaith approaches in religious education. This means providing opportunities for children to learn about other religions, interact with individuals from different religious backgrounds, and participate in interfaith dialogue. It helps form positive attitudes towards other faiths and promotes interreligious peace and tolerance.

It should be emphasized that religious education is not static but must continue to develop with changing times. Children should be taught skills that enable them to adapt their spiritual understanding to social contexts, technology, and changes in global dynamics. It refers to the knowledge that spiritual teachings can be interpreted and applied in a way relevant to a modern context. Furthermore, innovative and technology-based methods in religious education can enrich children's learning experience. Videos, simulations, and online learning platforms can be used to explore their understanding of religion and how those values can be applied in real life. It can also facilitate a broader

¹⁹ Anna Halafoff, Kim Lam, and Gary Bouma, "Worldviews Education: Cosmopolitan Peacebuilding and Preventing Violent Extremism," *Journal of Beliefs & Values* 40, no. 3 (2019): 381–95, doi:10.1080/13617672.2019.1600113; Harry J Van Buren III, Jawad Syed, and Raza Mir, "Religion as a Macro Social Force Affecting Business: Concepts, Questions, and Future Research," *Business & Society* 59, no. 5 (2020): 799–822, doi:10.1177/0007650319845097; Muh Syauci Malik and Maslahah Maslahah, "Revitalization of the Concept of Educational Axiology: Perspectives of Islamic Philosophy," *Belajea: Jurnal Pendidikan Islam* 6, no. 2 (2021): 121–34, doi:10.29240/belajea.v6i2.2590.

exchange of ideas and views through communication with individuals from different religious backgrounds worldwide.

Cooperation between states, religions, and non-governmental organizations can also strengthen religious education that promotes peace and tolerance.²⁰ The government's involvement in developing an inclusive and non-discriminatory religious education curriculum is an important step. In addition, religious and civil society organizations can play an active role in supporting peace-focused religious education programs. Furthermore, in the context of effective religious education, there needs to be a deep understanding of the social and political dynamics in the society in which children grow up. Spiritual teachers and educators must know contemporary issues relevant to religion and culture to provide children with an appropriate, understanding, connected, and diverse world; it is essential to remember that religious education is an investment in building a better future. Children who receive a religious education that is profound, inclusive, and oriented toward peace values will become future leaders capable of promoting tolerance, overcoming conflict, and building a more harmonious society. Therefore, efforts to improve religious education that supports peace and tolerance must continue to take precedence in efforts to create a better world.

CONCLUSION

Religious education organized in the family environment serves as a critical element in shaping the attitudes and behaviours of children related to the idea of peace and tolerance in society. An approach to religious education that emphasizes the concepts of humanity, compassion, and justice within a particular religious framework can produce young individuals who have a stronger tendency to support peace and appreciate diversity in religious contexts. Therefore, efforts to develop holistic religious education, accommodating various perspectives and grounded in the principles of peace within the Muslim community, illustrate the great potential in creating a more harmonious and inclusive society.

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