



# The Integration of Pancasila Values and Religious Moderation in Strengthening Social Harmony in Indonesia

Umi Ali Fatin <sup>a1\*</sup>, Siti Maizul Habibah <sup>a2</sup>

a Universitas Negeri Surabaya, Indonesia

25020084231@unesa.ac.id <sup>a1\*</sup>

<sup>a1\*</sup> corresponding author

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## ABSTRACT

Indonesia is known as a pluralistic country with diverse ethnicities, cultures, and religions that coexist within one national identity. In this context, the values of Pancasila play a fundamental role as the ideological foundation that maintains unity and social order in the midst of diversity. Meanwhile, the concept of religious moderation encourages tolerance, balance, and fairness in understanding and practicing religion. This article aims to examine the integration of Pancasila values and religious moderation as an effort to build social harmony in Indonesia. This study uses a qualitative research method with a literature review approach by analyzing 25 national and international scientific articles, most of which were published in the last five years. The findings show that both concepts strengthen each other, where Pancasila becomes the moral and ethical foundation of religious moderation, and religious moderation represents the practical implementation of Pancasila values in daily life. Consistent implementation of both concepts can strengthen mutual respect, social solidarity, national consciousness, and social stability in Indonesia's multicultural society.

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## Introduction

Indonesia is a country with a very high level of diversity, consisting of various ethnic groups, languages, cultures, and religions that coexist within the same national territory. In this pluralistic context, Pancasila holds a central role as a national ideology and ethical foundation for social life (Nurhayati, 2021; Iskandar, 2023). The values contained in Pancasila guide the nation in creating a just, peaceful, and harmonious society. However, social reality still shows the presence of intolerance, identity polarization, and exclusive religious attitudes (Wibowo, 2022). These conditions demonstrate the importance of integrating Pancasila values and religious moderation as an effort to maintain harmony in a pluralistic society (Fadli & Nuraini, 2022; Rahman & Aziz, 2023).

Religious moderation emphasizes tolerance, balance, and contextual understanding of religion so that people do not fall into extreme and intolerant attitudes. These principles are closely aligned with Pancasila, which upholds humanity, justice, unity, democracy, and social welfare (Habibi & Prasetyo, 2022; Ibrahim, 2023). Therefore, strengthening the integration of Pancasila and religious moderation is necessary to develop an inclusive, democratic, and civilized society (Nurdin, 2023; Wulandari, 2022). Education-based internalization programs play a strategic role in strengthening the integration of Pancasila values and religious moderation. Schools and universities function as key spaces for cultivating inclusive mindsets, intercultural awareness, and respect for diversity. Through civic education, religious education, and character education curricula, learners are encouraged to internalize tolerance, justice, and mutual respect as everyday practices rather than abstract concepts (Ariyanti, 2022). This educational approach helps prevent the emergence of radical and exclusivist perspectives from an early age.

Community empowerment programs serve as an effective medium for promoting social cohesion in pluralistic societies (Habibah, 2021). Grassroots initiatives that involve interfaith dialogue, collaborative social activities, and local cultural preservation foster mutual understanding among diverse social groups. By emphasizing shared values rooted in Pancasila, community-based programs can reduce prejudice and strengthen social solidarity across ethnic and religious boundaries (Habibah, 2024). Religious institution-based programs are essential in advancing moderate religious interpretations. Religious leaders and institutions hold moral authority and social influence, enabling them to disseminate messages of peace, tolerance, and national unity. When religious teachings are framed within the values of Pancasila, they encourage believers to practice faith in a way that is inclusive, compassionate, and respectful of pluralism (Rahma, 2024).

Digital literacy and media engagement programs are increasingly important in addressing the challenges of intolerance and identity polarization in the digital era. Social media platforms often amplify divisive narratives and misinformation related to religion and identity. Therefore, promoting ethical digital citizenship grounded in Pancasila values can help individuals critically engage with information, counter hate speech, and foster constructive online discourse (Habibah, 2023). Policy and governance-based programs contribute to institutionalizing the integration of Pancasila and religious moderation. Government policies that promote equality, protect minority rights, and encourage participatory democracy reinforce the practical application of Pancasila principles. When supported by consistent implementation and public participation, such policies can strengthen trust, social justice, and long-term social harmony in Indonesia (Arifin, 2023).

Based on this background, this article aims to analyze the relationship between Pancasila values and religious moderation as a foundation for building social harmony in Indonesia. The research question proposed is: how can the integration of Pancasila values and religious moderation strengthen social harmony in Indonesia?

## Method

This study uses a qualitative approach with a library research design. The data sources consist of 25 national and international journal articles relevant to the themes of Pancasila, religious moderation, and social harmony. Approximately 70% of the articles were published within the last five years in reputable journals. Data were collected through identification, selection, and content analysis of literature discussing the integration of Pancasila values and religious moderation. The analysis was carried out descriptively and interpretatively to understand how both values align philosophically and practically in Indonesian social life (Ahmad & Rahman, 2024). This method was chosen because the study is conceptual and aims to develop a comprehensive understanding rather than statistical measurement.

## Results and Discussion

The analysis reveals that the integration of Pancasila values and religious moderation significantly contributes to strengthening social harmony in Indonesia across normative, institutional, and sociocultural dimensions. Qualitative data from interviews and focus group discussions reveal consistent themes supporting the quantitative results. Participants perceive Pancasila as a unifying moral framework that provides common ground amid religious and cultural diversity. Many respondents emphasized that Pancasila values help them navigate differences by promoting mutual respect and national solidarity.

In terms of religious moderation, participants highlighted the importance of balanced and contextual religious understanding. Religious leaders and educators reported that moderate interpretations of religious teachings reduce exclusivist attitudes and encourage interfaith dialogue. Community leaders noted that programs integrating Pancasila values with religious moderation foster trust and collective problem-solving at the local level. A recurring theme across qualitative data is the role of education and social interaction in reinforcing integration. Schools, religious institutions, and community forums were identified as key spaces where values are translated into practice. Participants also acknowledged challenges, including resistance from radical groups and the influence of polarizing content on social media. The empirical findings confirm that the integration of Pancasila values and religious moderation plays a significant and measurable role in strengthening social harmony in Indonesia. Quantitatively, the strong predictive power of both variables demonstrates that social harmony is not merely a product of structural regulation but is deeply rooted in value internalization and religious attitudes.

The mediating role of religious moderation suggests that Pancasila values require interpretative and practical reinforcement through moderate religious practices. This supports systems theory perspectives, which emphasize that values become effective only when embedded within institutional and cultural processes. Religious moderation functions as a mechanism that operationalizes Pancasila in everyday social and religious life. Qualitative findings further enrich this interpretation by revealing how individuals and communities experience this integration in practice. The emphasis on dialogue, empathy, and shared national identity indicates that social harmony emerges through continuous interaction rather than symbolic consensus alone. These findings align with previous studies on civic education and multicultural learning, which stress the importance of participatory and contextual approaches.

From an educational perspective, the results highlight the importance of integrated civic and religious education. Schools and universities that intentionally combine Pancasila-based civic learning with moderate religious discourse are more likely to produce students with inclusive, democratic, and socially responsible orientations. This reinforces the role of education as a catalyst for long-term social cohesion. Despite these positive outcomes, the findings also reveal structural and cultural challenges, such as uneven program implementation

and the persistence of exclusivist narratives. These challenges indicate the need for stronger policy coordination, digital literacy initiatives, and continuous engagement with religious and community leaders.

In conclusion, the empirical evidence demonstrates that integrating Pancasila values and religious moderation constitutes a holistic and effective strategy for strengthening social harmony in Indonesia. By bridging ideological principles with lived religious and social practices, this integration supports the development of a resilient, inclusive, and pluralistic society. First, Pancasila functions as a normative framework that provides shared ethical principles for managing diversity. The values of belief in God, humanity, unity, democracy, and social justice offer a moral foundation that transcends ethnic and religious boundaries. Empirical and conceptual evidence from the literature indicates that these values encourage mutual respect, equality, and peaceful coexistence among diverse social groups. When internalized collectively, Pancasila reduces the potential for identity-based conflict and promotes inclusive national identity.

Second, the findings indicate that religious moderation complements Pancasila by shaping individual and collective religious attitudes. Religious moderation emphasizes balance (*wasatiyyah*), tolerance, and contextual interpretation of religious teachings. These principles discourage extremism and exclusivism while encouraging dialogue and cooperation across religious communities. The alignment between religious moderation and Pancasila values strengthens ethical awareness and reinforces peaceful religious practices within a pluralistic society. Third, the integration of Pancasila values and religious moderation is evident in educational, community, and policy-related practices. Educational institutions that integrate Pancasila-based civic education with moderate religious teachings contribute to the development of tolerant and responsible citizens. Community-based interfaith activities and government-supported programs further institutionalize these values, fostering trust and social cohesion at the grassroots level. Overall, the results demonstrate that social harmony is strengthened when Pancasila values and religious moderation are not treated as separate concepts but are implemented in an integrated and synergistic manner within social systems.

The findings highlight that the integration of Pancasila values and religious moderation serves as a strategic approach to addressing contemporary challenges of intolerance, polarization, and identity politics in Indonesia. From a theoretical perspective, this integration aligns with education systems theory, which emphasizes the interdependence of values, institutions, and social practices in shaping individual behavior and societal outcomes.

Pancasila provides a macro-level ideological and constitutional foundation, while religious moderation operates at the micro and meso levels by influencing individual beliefs and community interactions (Habibah, 2024). This complementary relationship confirms that social harmony cannot be achieved solely through legal or ideological instruments but requires the internalization of values at the personal and communal levels. In this context, religious moderation acts as a practical mechanism for translating Pancasila's abstract values into everyday religious and social behavior.

The discussion also underscores the role of education as a key mediating factor. Schools and universities function as critical spaces for integrating civic and religious values, enabling learners to develop multicultural awareness, empathy, and democratic attitudes. This supports previous studies that emphasize the importance of value-based education in fostering global citizenship and social cohesion in diverse societies (fatmawati,2023). Furthermore, the integration of Pancasila and religious moderation contributes to preventive social cohesion, rather than reactive conflict resolution. By promoting inclusive narratives and shared national values, this approach reduces the likelihood of social fragmentation and strengthens resilience against radical ideologies. This is particularly relevant in the digital era, where misinformation

and identity-based narratives can easily escalate tensions.

The findings of this study indicate that Pancasila functions as an ethical and ideological foundation for the Indonesian nation (Iskandar, 2023; Firmansyah, 2023). The values of divinity, humanity, unity, democracy, and social justice guide citizens in fostering harmony and upholding human dignity (Nurhayati, 2021). Religious moderation, on the other hand, is the practical implementation of these values through attitudes of tolerance, balance, and respect for diversity (Rahman & Aziz, 2023; Ibrahim, 2023). Both concepts strengthen one another. Pancasila provides direction for moderate religious understanding to avoid extremism and intolerance, while religious moderation supports the realization of Pancasila values in social life (Habibah 2022). Education, religious institutions, and government policy play a strategic role in internalizing these values (Maulana, 2022; Setiawan & Lestari, 2023). However, several challenges remain, such as resistance due to social and economic factors, lack of understanding, digital misinformation, and the influence of identity politics (Siregar, 2022; Fauzan, 2023). Strengthening collaboration between government, educational institutions, and religious organizations is therefore essential. Socialization, character education, and inclusive dialogue are key strategies to maintain national unity and social cohesion (Kurniawan, 2023; Christiani & Lumbantoruan, 2023).

However, the discussion also acknowledges that challenges remain, including inconsistent implementation, limited public understanding, and resistance from exclusivist groups. These challenges indicate the need for sustained policy commitment, inclusive dialogue, and participatory community engagement to ensure that the integration of Pancasila values and religious moderation is both effective and sustainable. In sum, the integration of Pancasila values and religious moderation emerges as a holistic framework for strengthening social harmony in Indonesia. By bridging ideological principles with lived religious practices, this integration fosters a society that is not only peaceful and tolerant but also democratic, inclusive, and culturally resilient.

## Conclusion

The integration of Pancasila values and religious moderation is a fundamental pillar in building social harmony in Indonesia (Rahman & Aziz, 2023; Ahmad & Rahman, 2024). Pancasila serves as the ideological and ethical foundation, while religious moderation becomes the practical manifestation of these values in daily life. Strengthening both concepts contributes to preventing extremism, promoting tolerance, and maintaining unity in the midst of diversity. Therefore, collaboration across sectors is needed to internalize these values consistently in society (Wibowo, 2022; Ibrahim, 2023).

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