Strengthening the Value of Religious Moderation in Islamic Boarding Schools

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Zakariyah¹, Umu Fauziyah², Muhammad Maulana Nur Kholis³
Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Ampel Surabaya, Indonesia
Institut Pesantren Kh. Abdul Chalim, Pacet Mojokerto, Indonesia
Universitas Al-Azhar Chairo, Egypt
Email: zakariyah@gmail.com

Abstract
This article aims to describe and determine the value of moderation and the implementation of the value of moderation in Islamic education at the Al-Fattah Siman Islamic Boarding School Sekaran Lamongan. This article uses a descriptive qualitative research design. The study’s data collection methods were interviews, observation, and documentation studies. Data were analyzed using descriptive analysis. The results of the research on the implementation of moderation values in Islamic education at the Al-Fattah Siman Islamic Boarding School Sekaran Lamongan show that; 1) Understanding the values of moderation in Islamic education is the basis for the formation of the character of the santri who in practice adheres to the principles of Ahlussunnah waljama‘ah understanding with a tendency to moderation or wasatiyyah through understanding Aqidah, sharia, or worship and morality. 2) The implementation of moderation values in Islamic education is carried out in several stages, namely planning, implementation and evaluation. 3) The implementation of the values of moderation in Islamic education at the Al-Fattah Siman Islamic Boarding School Sekaran Lamongan is applied to three activities, namely teaching and learning activities, religious-spiritual activities, and skills supporting activities; 4) The implementation of moderate values in Islamic education uses four strategies, namely introduction, habituation, example, and practice; 5) Evaluation of the implementation of moderation values in Islamic education is divided into three forms, namely program evaluation, evaluation of the learning process and evaluation of learning outcomes.

Keywords: Moderation Values, Islamic Education, Islamic Boarding Schools, Education Implementation

Kata kunci: Nilai Moderasi, Pendidikan Islam, Pesantren, Implementasi Pendidikan

http://pasca.jurnalikhac.ac.id/index.php/tijie/index
INTRODUCTION

In recent years, Indonesia has raised radicalism, extremism, terrorism, and the Khilafah State. As happened in the 2018, 2019, and 2020 elections, all parts of this nation face religious problems deliberately created by certain Islamic groups\(^1\). The group wants to use religion and divide Muslims for political gain. The government constantly socializes religious moderation to prevent divisions between religious communities\(^2\).

In the millennial era, through social media as propaganda to gain sympathy, the development of terrorism and radicalism is relatively rapid\(^3\). By using the internet or online media, they make young people radical like the findings of Brian Levin that happened in America. From the results of his research, it is of strategic value in this millennial era, related to technological developments to strengthen the statement that online media can control a situation\(^4\).


The term wasa’iyyah is interpreted the same as moderation. It is not new in Islam. Muslims recognize that moderation or wasa’iyyah is something important because of moderation⁵. This moderation hints at the characteristics of Muslims, such as the word of Allah SWT in the Qur’an.

Al-Qur’an and Al-Hadith become the primary sources of Islamic teachings instructing Muslims to create progress in their lives and prosper their lives in society, increasing the dignity and status of individuals and socially both in life in the community. World or in the hereafter⁶. The Qur’an is the source and guide of human life in carrying out all life activities, including religious moderation⁷.

The Qur’an views moderation as the core of social life with the term khayra ummah. The Qur’an calls moderation wasa’iyyah. Moderation must be understood as a collective consensus to maintain a balanced wholeness in society. Every community member must be willing to accept each other’s opinions regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, culture, and political choices try to train to cultivate existing differences⁸.

Issues of terrorism, extremism, and radicalism are often associated with the world of Islamic boarding schools. In Indonesia, Islamic boarding schools have become icons of Islamic educational foundations that provide tangible evidence to educate and teach indigenous people to become a society with good morals⁹. Until now, the debate about radicalism in Islamic boarding schools still often appears and becomes a hot discussion in the public sphere, causing unrest in society. However, it cannot be generalized that all pesantren (Islamic Boarding School) are adherents of

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radical and extremist religions\textsuperscript{10}. Some Kiai (Leader of Islamic Boarding School) or founders of Islamic boarding schools foster and educate their students to become a militant generation in their religious appreciation and more modern and moderate in their religious appreciation\textsuperscript{11}.

In addition to the distinctive character of Indonesia, pesantren continuously transmits an understanding of religious understanding that is tolerant, peaceful, non-radical, and respectful of each other. Not close to terrorism, especially justifying suicide bombings\textsuperscript{12}. In a pluralistic Indonesian society, Islamic boarding schools have a strategic role. Islamic boarding schools can spread religion, uphold peaceful and tolerant national values. Islamic boarding schools adapt to differences and diversity in society\textsuperscript{13}. Therefore, it is natural that Islamic boarding schools become the leading guardians in developing the Islamic understanding of Rahmatanlil’alamin\textsuperscript{14}.

Pesantren as a forum for studying Islamic teachings that are rahmatanlil’alamin (bringing prosperity and mercy to all people and the universe) is very important if religious moderation is included in the learning curriculum at Islamic boarding schools so that it can anticipate the insertion of understanding and practice of extreme and radical religious teachings\textsuperscript{15}. both the extreme right and left because of the attitude of radicalism, extremism, and terrorism can divide Muslims, cause

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conflict and divide the Unitary Republic of Indonesia because of the diversity of races, ethnicities, religions, nations, and customs that exist in Indonesia. Islamic boarding schools are obliged to be the front fortress to maintain a moderate Islamic religion. The hope of religious moderation carried out in Islamic boarding schools is that a santri (student in Islamic Boarding School) can become an agent of the peace who has a moderate, not extreme, and excessive character in practicing Sharia and Islamic teachings because all religions teach peace and prohibit violence.

The results of Sodikin’s research show the application of moderate-based Islamic Education through learning Islamic Religious Education by providing wasatiyah values and strong doctrines of tolerance and mutual respect. While the bearers of strong moderation in Indonesia are institutions under the auspices of NU (Nahdatul Ulama) and Muhammadiyah. The application of character-based moderation in school institutions is carried out through strengthening the values of Aswaja.

Abdurrahman’s research resulted in the formation of moderate Muslims in the world of education, teaching materials that are by Islam rahmatan lil Alamin are needed. Teaching materials that include multicultural material, tasamuh, mutual respect and are strongly based on the Qur’an and Hadith. Muhammad Muclis also researched “Moderate Islamic Education in the Frame of Local Wisdom” instilling moderation in students who are integrated with the curriculum, extra-curricular

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activities, and hidden curriculum and combined with local wisdom of Madurese culture\textsuperscript{22}.

Looking at some of the research above, the author makes a difference from previous research and strengthens Hafidz’s research on efforts to strengthen moderate values in Islamic Boarding Schools. This article will explain the planning, implementation, and evaluation of moderate values in Islamic boarding schools, while strategies for strengthening moderate values are through the introduction, habituation, example, and experience.

**METHOD**

The author uses a qualitative type and what is meant by qualitative research is research whose data results are in the form of written words or speech and behavior of the people observed. By the problems that are the focus of this research, this research belongs to the type of case study research, namely a research strategy that examines in detail a background, one subject, or a particular event.

The location referred to in this study is the Al-Fattah Islamic Boarding School, Siman Village, Sekaran District, Lamongan Regency. Al-Fattah Islamic Boarding School has been established in 1942 and was founded by KH. Abdul Fattah. After KH. Abdul Fattah died caring for the Al-Fattah Islamic Boarding School continued by his sons, namely KH. Abdul Muhith Fattah, KH. Abdul Majid Fattah and KH. Ma’mun Fattah.

In this study, the data sources came from data in the field and written data. Methodologically, there are various data collection techniques that can be used in qualitative research, including 1) Interview, which is conducting face-to-face questions and answers using an interview guide to obtain the desired information. 2) Observation, is collecting data by observing and recording the events or behavior of the object under study. 3) Documentation Study, is collecting data by studying documents or personal records about respondent data. Data analysis according to

\textsuperscript{22} Mohammad Muchlis Solichin, ‘Pendidikan Islam Moderat Dalam Bingkai Kearifan Lokal (Studi Pada Pondok Pesantren Al-Amin Prenduan Sumenep Madura)’, *Jurnal MUDARRISUNA* 8, no. 1 (June 2018): 174–94.
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Understanding the Value of Moderation in Islamic Education at Al-Fattah Siman Islamic Boarding School Sekaran Lamongan

Based on the findings in the research regarding the form of understanding the values of moderation in Islamic education, it was found that the form of understanding the values of moderation in Islamic education is divided into two. That is understanding faith (aqeeda), sharia or worship, and understanding morality.

The principles of faith and sharia or worship held by the Al-Fattah Siman Islamic Boarding School Sekaran Lamongan are based on the principles of creed and fiqh (jurisprudence), the understanding of Ahlusussunnah wal Jama’ah, which is based on salaf scholars. Islamic boarding schools instill in students to practice what has been implemented in Islamic boarding schools, both aqeeda based on Imam Asary and fiqh by Imam Syafi’i. Through this, it is hoped that the students will become the next generation of scholars who hold fast to their Aqedah and morals by the values of moderation by the principles of Ahlusussunnah wal Jama’ah.

While the form of understanding related to morals that are always emphasized by Islamic boarding schools to students, in general, is tolerance, has a fair nature, prioritizes deliberation, helps, loves peace, upholds etiquette and courtesy.

This is as stated by Afrizal Nur that the characteristics of wasatiyyah are Tawassut (middle way), Tawazun (balanced), I’tidal (upright and straight), Tasamuh (tolerant), Musawaw (equal), Syurō (consultation), Islāh (reform), Awlawiyah (priority), and Tathawwur was Ibtikar (dynamic and innovative).24

The Malaysian scholar, Muhammad Kamal Hassan25, gives the notion of wasatiyyat by combining several meanings, namely justice (justice or ‘is), good/superior (excellence or khairiyah), and tawazzun or tawassuth, tawazun, and

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i’tidal). The three elements are markers of Ummatan Wasathan or Khaira Ummah. As for the Malaysian scholar, Hasan Kamali, translating wasatiyyat as a tug-of-war relationship between two paired concepts, such as between ratio and revelation, rights and obligations, individualism and socialism, necessity and volunteerism, ideals and reality, and continuity with change.

The understanding and practice of religious practice of a moderate Muslim have the following characteristics: 1) moderate, namely by taking the middle path, neither right nor left, 2) Tawâzun, a person who has balance in practicing Islamic teachings. The balance between the needs of the world and the obligations towards the hereafter, 3) I’tidal: firm and straight, performing rights and obligations by the rules or proportionally, 4) tolerance/tasamuh: respecting and acknowledging differences that exist both in terms of social or religious aspects, 5) Egalitarian/musâwah does not discriminate against someone due to differences in traditions, and beliefs, 6) Deliberations, 7) Islah (reform), 8) puts priority. 9. Tathawwur was Ibtikar, and 10) civilized.

In terms of Aqeedah and fiqh, the adherence of Al-Fattah Siman Sekaran Lamongan Islamic Boarding School to the understanding of Ahlussunnah wal Jama’ah with the concept of rahmatan Lil Alamin through its program of activities or learning confirms its real existence for the application of moderation values. Fattah Siman Sekaran Lamongan reflects on the concept of rahmatan Lil Alamin applied by Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) as the largest moderate religious mass organization in Indonesia.

In line with Abdul Malik Karim Amrullah, education must formulate a moderate education concept and can be accepted by all circles. Education is not just
a concept but must be applied at the institutional level through programs, learning model approaches that are used to save human nature.

The implementation of moderation values is in accordance with the teachings of Ahlussunnah wal Jama’ah which emphasizes the importance of tolerance and peace in preaching as the kyai hopes for the next generation, namely the santri (student in Boarding School). The values of moderation in Islamic education cannot be separated from the teachings of Ahlussunnah wal Jama’ah in the faith which recognizes four schools of jurisprudence, namely Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi’i, and Hanafi. While in the field of Sufism, Following Imam Al-Ghazali, Imam Junaid Al-Baghdadi, and other priests. The understanding of morality in the application of moderation values does not only emphasize the human relationship to God but also the human relationship with fellow human beings. So that the books taught in Islamic boarding schools are also books written by salaf scholars which are in accordance with the understanding of Ahlussunnah wal Jama’ah.

This is by what was conveyed by M. Quraish Shihab that the teachings of Islam are summarized in three main things, namely Aqedah, sharia or ubudiyyah, and character or morals so that when the values of moderation are reflected in these three things, the human will become khayra ummah (the best people)\textsuperscript{30}.

With some of the results of the analysis, the author concludes that the understanding of moderate values in Islamic education at the Al-Fattah Siman Islamic Boarding School Sekaran Lamongan is in accordance with the theory presented both in the field of Aqedah, sharia or worship and in the field of morals.

**Implementation of Moderation Values in Islamic Education at Al-Fattah Siman Islamic Boarding School Sekaran Lamongan**

There are three stages in the process of implementing the value of moderation in Islamic education at the Al-Fattah Siman Islamic Boarding School Sekaran Lamongan, namely planning, implementation and evaluation. The explanation of these stages is as follows.

**Moderation Education Planning**

Based on the results of the existing research, a plan for implementing an activity program was prepared and formulated by involving caregivers,
administrators, the council of teachers, and community leaders. Planning for the implementation of the values of moderation begins with the selection of new students, the selection of teachers’ acceptance, the determination of the books to be taught, and the formulation of the program of activities in the pesantren.

Learning planning is important based on the following: 1) the learning process is an activity that has a purpose. To achieve this goal, lecturers need to formulate/design a lesson plan at the beginning of the activity. 2) the learning process is an interactive activity between lecturers and students. In the learning process, student participation is important. Teachers cannot carry out the learning process and achieve learning objectives without the involvement of students. To get optimal participation from students, lecturers must design a lesson plan to develop cognitive, affective, and psychomotor aspects. 3) the learning process is not just a transmission of knowledge but is a formation of student attitudes, behaviors, and skills. This collaborative process must involve various learning components such as educators, students, media, and learning resources, all of which must be planned properly.31

The research findings are by what is explained by Ansong that the planning system in education is very necessary for communication-related to decision making, planning, monitoring, evaluating, and formulating policies that need communication as supporting material in educational planning.32

**Application of Moderation Education**

There are three kinds of implementation of Moderation Values in Islamic Education at Al-Fattah Siman Islamic Boarding School Sekaran Lamongan, namely through teaching and learning activities in the classroom, religious-spiritual activities, and skills supporting activities or extracurricular. Without implementation through teaching and learning in the classroom, religious-spiritual activities, and skills or extracurricular activities, the implementation of moderation values in Islamic education is only a meaningless discourse.

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From the three forms of implementation above, there are three kinds of values of Islamic moderation in this study. The moderate values of Islam are Is (justice), tawazun (balance), and tasamuh (tolerance). These values are sourced from religious teachings and if the author examines them more deeply, these values are classified as divine and human values. This is in Zayadi’s opinion quoted by Abdul Majid and Dian Andayani that the values that apply in life are grouped into two types, namely Divine and Insaniyah values. And what is included in the divine values are tawazun, while those included in the human values are tasamuh. The explanation of the three forms of activities related to the implementation of moderation values in Islamic education at the Al-Fattah Siman Islamic Boarding School Sekaran Lamongan is as follows.

Meanwhile, the moderation reinforcement follows the model of Faris Khoirul Anam et al, namely the sources of material development and Islamic moderation curriculum in Islamic boarding schools, namely (1) Islamic moderation guards; (2) maintain togetherness; (3) recognize the authority of the fiqh school; (4) acknowledge the existence of heresy hasanah; (5) loyal opposition to the authorities; (6) methodological (manhaji) is not liberal; (7) does not hegemony the truth; (8) respecting local wisdom with ushul fiqh standards. This research is expected to be able to contribute to realizing the spirit of religious moderation in Indonesia.

**Moderation Learning Activities**

The process of implementing teaching and learning activities in the classroom is the process of implementing the value of (fairness) which is included in the values of moderation, namely that the teachers are fair to all students, regardless of the background of the students. The teachers pressure the students to be fair, namely fair to Allah SWT, fair to themselves, namely by always maintaining a good attitude. Fair to others, namely treating others according to what is their right and not to hurt them. Fair to other living things, namely maintaining and protecting the environment and nature. All of that is done in the teaching and learning process.

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35 Anam, Padil, and Yahya, ‘Building Ahlus-Sunnah Wal-Jamaah an-Nahdliyah Character as the Pillar of Islamic Moderation in Islamic Boarding School’. 
The teacher provides opportunities for all students to participate in teaching and learning activities and when in the learning process students gain the right to acquire knowledge and are required to carry out their obligations as a student in accordance with the regulations in the Pesantren.

In implementing the values of moderation in Islamic education at the Al-Fattah Siman Sekaran Lamongan Islamic Boarding School in the next teaching and learning process is *tasamuh* (tolerance), the form of activity is with deliberation activities or group discussions, study together, group cooperation, the election of class leaders, selection of room leaders, division of picket groups, and making rules in classes and rooms.

The process of implementing moderate values in Islamic education at the Al-Fattah Siman Islamic Boarding School Sekaran Lamongan in religious spiritual activities is to apply the value of *Is* (justice). When students carry out religious spiritual activities, students reflect on the nature of justice, students are not only preoccupied with learning religious knowledge but also get closer to God for example, such as praying in congregation, reading *wirid*, and other religious activities.

The strategy of delivering learning also cannot be separated from two approaches, namely teacher-centered and student-centered. Teacher-centered teaching includes several teaching strategies in which the teacher is tasked with presenting the knowledge to be learned and explicitly guiding the student learning process. Whereas student-centered teaching, students have more responsibilities in constructing their knowledge, the teacher’s job is only as a guide.

### Skills Supporting Activities or Extracurricular

The next Islamic moderation values that are implemented are the values of *tawazun* (balance). At the Al-Fattah Siman, Islamic Boarding School Sekaran Lamongan in implementing the value of *tawazun* is through Skills Support Activities or Extracurricular. This is intended to maintain balance in all respects, students are not only equipped with religious knowledge but also skills that will later be useful.

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for students in interacting with the wider community in their lives. So, it is clear that the effort to instill the value of tawazun is to realize a balanced santri in both worldly and hereafter affairs.

In implementing the values of moderation in Islamic education at the Al-Fattah Siman Islamic Boarding School Sekaran Lamongan, the teacher has several strategies so that the values of moderation can be implemented properly, because implementing the values of moderation to students requires cooperation between various parties, both by teachers, administrators, and caretakers of Islamic boarding schools. In the findings of the data obtained by the researchers, the strategies used by the teachers in implementing the values of moderation are as follows.

**Introduction:** At this stage, to implement the values of moderation for students, an understanding of the values of Islamic teachings, including the values of moderation, is given. This is done during teaching and learning activities and during skills support activities. For example, through lectures during khitobiyah (learn speech), yasinan or tahlilan activities.

**Habituation:** The values that exist in the santri must be familiarized with activities that are routinely carried out in the pesantren because everything that is used to be done will be internalized and absorbed within them will raise self-awareness about the importance of these values in everyday life. Activities carried out repeatedly will become habits and become religious activities, and that will have an impact on instilling a value. At Pondok Pesantren Al-Fattah Siman Sekaran Lamongan, one of the strategies for internalizing the value of Islamic moderation is through the habituation method, the goal is for students to feel they have the value of moderation and are aware of the importance of the value of moderation in life. As for the habituation, such as congregational prayers, istighasah, and ro’an (service work).

**Exemplary:** When the values of moderation have been accepted and loved by the students, it is necessary to have real examples from the teachers so that the students can see a real picture of a value that is exemplified by the teachers. Exemplary is one of the effective ways in the process of implementing value in students. This is because the teachers are the most obvious examples to be imitated and imitated by the students in all their behavior and speech. At the Al-Fattah
Siman Islamic Boarding School Sekaran Lamongan, the teachers exemplified the value of Islamic moderation by being punctual, tolerant, fair to all students, resolving problems by way of deliberation, and respecting and respecting differences.

**Practice:** The values already owned by students will be seen if these values are practiced in everyday life without any orders and coercion. If that has been done, the students have formed a personality from these values. As at the Al-Fattah Siman Islamic Boarding School Sekaran Lamongan, the students are automatically used to worshiping without being ordered to, carrying out religious activities such as *istigasah* also on time without being ordered by the teachers, besides that, the concern for students is also very high, such as cleaning the Pesantren environment, helping friends who need help, difficulties, respecting and respecting differences when there are friends who have different opinions in class discussions, and being respectful and polite to friends and other Pesantren residents.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that the strategy for implementing the values of moderation begins with the introduction of good and bad moderation values, then these values are lived through habituation with religious activities, then these activities are accustomed to in everyday life, and to find out that these values have been integrated into the students, it can be seen from the values of moderation which are implemented every day without any orders or coercion.

In the stage of implementing moderate values in Islamic education at the Al-Fattah Siman Islamic Boarding School Sekaran Lamongan after the planning and implementation stages, the last stage is evaluation. Based on the results of existing research regarding the evaluation of the process of implementing the values of moderation, it is divided into three types, namely program evaluation, evaluation of the learning process, and evaluation of learning outcomes. Evaluation of the activity program is carried out once a semester by involving caregivers, administrators, and the teacher’s board, while the evaluation of the learning process is carried out once a month to control or determine the ability of students related to material or religious understanding and their activities. The third is the evaluation of learning outcomes carried out twice a year which is called the *initial intihan* and *intihanul nihaiyyah*. 
This evaluation is used to evaluate the level of students’ ability to understand and practice the knowledge gained.

In the context of learning IRE material with a moderate perspective, learning outcomes can be measured by the ability of students to understand and apply moderate values, including being able to learn to live in differences with all students from different cultural, ethnic, and ethnic backgrounds, social status in school and in the community, build mutual trust between students and multicultural communities, maintain mutual understanding with students and multicultural communities uphold mutual respect for differences of opinion and religious beliefs, think openly, resolve conflicts and reconciliation without violence, such as being able to solve problems at school by prioritizing dialogical deliberation among friends.

CONCLUSION

The process of understanding the values of moderation in Islamic education at the Al-Fattah Siman Islamic Boarding School Sekaran Lamongan is the basis for the formation of the character of the santri who in practice adheres to the principles of Ahlusunnah waljama’ah understanding with a tendency to moderation or wasaṭiyah through understanding aqidah, sharia or worship, and morality. The process of implementing the values of moderation in Islamic education at the Al-Fattah Siman Islamic Boarding School now in Lamongan is carried out in several stages, namely planning, implementation and evaluation. Planning includes selection tests for acceptance of students, administrators, and teachers as well as the preparation of programs that involve caregivers, administrators, and teachers. In practice, the process of implementing moderate values in Islamic education at the Al-Fattah Siman Islamic Boarding School Sekaran Lamongan is applied to three activities, namely teaching and learning activities, religious-spiritual activities, and skills supporting activities. Implementing the values of moderation in Islamic education at the Al-Fattah Siman Islamic Boarding School Sekaran Lamongan uses four strategies: introduction, habituation, example, and practice. Meanwhile, for the evaluation stage of the implementation of moderation values in

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Islamic education at the Al-Fattah Siman Islamic Boarding School now Lamongan, it is divided into three forms, namely program evaluation, evaluation of the learning process, and evaluation of learning outcomes.

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