



## MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION VALUES IN SOCIETY: AN ETHONEDUCATIONAL APPROACH

NILAI-NILAI PENDIDIKAN MULTIKULTURAL DALAM MASYARAKAT: SUATU  
PENDEKATAN ETNOPENDIDIKAN

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### ABSTRACT

Indonesia is a country that has a variety of cultures and customs attached to various ethnicities, racial cultures and multiple religions. So multicultural education is needed, namely education that respects differences, so that it does not become a source of conflict and division. This attitude of mutual tolerance will create dynamic diversity, cultural richness which becomes the nation's identity and is worth preserving. In multicultural education, every civilization and culture in an equal and equal position. One of the important goals of the multicultural education concept is to help students gain knowledge and respect other people of different ethnicities, cultures and personality values. Multicultural education has 4 (four) values, namely the value of equality, the value of tolerance, the value of democracy, and the value of pluralism. The values above have views that complement each other in addressing multiculturalism education. Thus, multicultural education is education that places emphasis on the process of cultivating a way of life that is mutually respectful, sincere and tolerant of cultural diversity living in a society with a high level of plurality.

**Keywords:** multicultural education; religious tolerance; cultural customs

### ABSTRAK

Indonesia adalah negara yang memiliki berbagai ragam budaya dan adat istiadat yang melekat dengan ragam etnis, ras budaya serta agama yang majemuk. Sehingga diperlukan suatu pendidikan multikultural, yaitu pendidikan yang menghargai perbedaan, agar tidak menjadi sumber konflik dan perpecahan. Sikap saling toleransi ini yang akan menjadikan keberagaman yang dinamis, kekayaan budaya yang menjadi jati diri bangsa yang patut untuk dilestarikan. Dalam pendidikan

*multikultural, setiap peradaban dan kebudayaan berada dalam posisi yang sejajar dan sama. Salah satu tujuan penting dari konsep pendidikan multikultural adalah untuk membantu peserta didik agar memperoleh pengetahuan, dan menghargai orang lain yang berbeda suku, budaya dan nilai kepribadian. Pendidikan multikultural mempunyai 4 (empat), nilai yaitu nilai kesetaraan, nilai toleransi, nilai demokrasi, dan nilai pluralisme. Nilai-nilai di atas mempunyai pandangan yang saling melengkapi satu sama lain dalam mensikapi pendidikan multikulturalisme. Dengan demikian, pendidikan multikultural merupakan pendidikan yang memberikan penekanan terhadap proses penanaman cara hidup yang saling menghormati, tulus, dan toleran terhadap keanekaragaman budaya hidup di tengah-tengah masyarakat dengan tingkat pluralitas yang tinggi.*

**Kata-kata kunci:** pendidikan multikultural; toleransi beragama; adat budaya

## A. INTRODUCTION

Education has an important role in people's lives. Education supports civilization while increasing the status of an individual. Therefore, education is a weapon in organizing a better life. In education there is a process. It is this process that contributes to self-development (Muhsyanur et al., 2021).

Indonesia is a large country with all the cultures and customs inherent in it. These diverse cultures cannot be denied that will give birth to various views that Indonesia is a country with diverse ethnicities, racial cultures and multiple religions. The science that studies diversity today is often referred to as multicultural education (Hilmi, 2003).

According to Munadlir (2016) in principle, multicultural education is education that respects differences. So that later these differences do not become a source of conflict and division. This attitude of mutual tolerance will later create dynamic diversity, cultural richness which becomes the nation's identity and is worth preserving.

Multicultural education needs to be developed so that Indonesian people better understand the importance of maintaining harmony between fellow human beings, in understanding something it must be completely so that what is the greatness of knowledge in multiculturalism can be broadened beyond just being limited to appreciating differences, more than that, understanding the importance of maintaining harmony, Providing ethics in the opinions of other groups, upholding humanitarian principles and so on is expected to be able to bring glory to this multi-faceted country (Azkiya et al., 2022).

In multicultural education, every existing civilization and culture is in an equal and equal position, there is no culture that is higher than another culture, dialogue necessitates the existence of similarities and similarities between the parties involved, the assumption

that certain cultures are higher than other cultures will give birth to fascism, nativism and chauvinism, with dialogue, it is hoped that there will be a clash of ideas which in turn will enrich the culture or civilization in question so that a prosperous, just and prosperous society will be created that respects each other's differences (Permana & Ahyani, 2020).

## **B. LITERATURE REVIEW**

Multiculturalism is a process of cultivating a way of life that is respectful, sincere and tolerant towards the diversity of cultures and religions that live in a pluralistic society (Gilton, 2020). Multicultural comes from the words "multi" which means "many", and "cultural" means culture. Multiculturalism is a philosophy interpreted as an ideology that requires the unity of various cultural groups with the same social and political rights and status in modern society (Ford, 2021).

Multicultural education is a process of developing all human potential that respects plurality and heterogeneity as a consequence of cultural, ethnic, tribal and sectarian (religious) diversity. Ibrahim (2013) says, multicultural education emphasizes a philosophy of cultural pluralism in an education system that is based on the principles of equality, mutual respect and acceptance as well as understanding and a moral commitment to social justice. In another definition, Anwar (2021) expressed his opinion that Multicultural education began with the development of ideas and awareness about interculturalism after World War II.

The emergence of the idea and awareness of interculturalism is not only related to developments in international politics regarding human rights, independence from colonialism, racial discrimination, etc. (Yogeeswaran et al., 2021), but also because of the increasing plurality in Western countries themselves as a result of increasing migration from newly independent countries to America. and Europe. According to Muwaffiqillah (2021) multicultural education is actually an attitude of caring and wanting to understand (difference) or politics of recognition towards people from minority groups.

Multicultural education looks at society more broadly (Nugraha, 2020). Based on the basic view that attitudes of indifference and non-recognition are not only rooted in racial structural inequality, but the multicultural education paradigm includes subjects regarding injustice, poverty, oppression and backwardness of minority groups in various fields: social, cultural, economic, educational, and so forth (Wulandari, 2020). The aim of Islamic education is not just to fill

students' minds with knowledge and subject matter, but to cleanse their souls, which must be filled with good morals and values and conditioned so that they can live a good life. This is in accordance Supriani et al. (2022) with the aim of multicultural education, namely to create a harmonious life in a pluralistic society.

### **C. METHOD**

The research method carried out by the researcher is a library study, according to Mishra & Alok (2022) a library study is a way for the researcher to determine the theme or topic of his research in which the researcher carries out a theoretical study related to the research topic. Researchers will search for and collect information that can be obtained from books, magazines, journals and research results (thesis, theses and dissertations) and others. Meanwhile, according to (Kelly, 2020), library research is data or research through print media originating from reference books, scientific journals and publication materials. Explanatory quotations from literature studies are research carried out by collecting a number of books and magazines related to a problem and research objectives. According to Åkerblad et al. (2021), the process of collecting literature study data requires 3 important processes, namely: 1) Editing is checking the data again that the researcher has obtained. 2). Organizing is organizing the data obtained with the necessary framework; and 3) Finding is a further analysis of the editing and organizing process.

### **D. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Based on the results of the literature study, the values of multicultural education in society that were found were the value of equality, the value of tolerance, the value of democracy and the value of pluralism.

#### **Value of Equality**

Equality is a value that adheres to the principle that every individual has equal rights and position in society. Therefore, every individual without exception has equal opportunities to participate in social activities in society.

In any religion, it will have a very broad impact if a religion is concerned about the community's environment, because religion must be able to translate a vision of social benefit for society. Equality in religion, especially Islam, Allah has ordered to abolish slavery.

The principle of Islamic equality is not only about religious life but also in various aspects of human life (Wijayadiningrat, 2020).

### **Tolerance Value**

Tolerance is an attitude of respecting other people who have differences. Multicultural education really respects the differences that exist in society. Likewise, Islam is a religion that has a high spirit of tolerance. Islam is fair and moderate in the sense that it is neither extreme right nor extreme left.

Things that are unthinkable for Muslims today have long been done by the Prophet Muhammad. The attitude of tolerance that he currently applies shows that he really respects other people. In this broader view, in fact the values of tolerance contained in Islamic law are the values contained in multicultural education.

### **Democratic Values**

The principle of democracy in education is a principle that can free humans from various types of confinement and provide opportunities for human development. The inclusion of democratic ideology into education is a form of recognition of the power of the people. Islam, which contains universal values, one of which also contains democratic values. Yusuf Qardhawi said that Islam preceded the ideology of democracy by establishing rules that support the essence and substance of democracy. The specialty of democracy is that it can fight for and protect the people from arbitrariness. In this way, the principle of democracy in education actually provides equal opportunities for everyone to receive education.

The growth of democracy in the educational process encourages the growth of multiculturalism in education. Multiculturalism enters various spheres of social life, especially educational aspects. Society will obtain democratic justice if all the people's needs can be accommodated properly. Furthermore, democracy contains the values of justice for the people.

### **Pluralism Values**

The debate regarding the position of religious groups in society is a study of pluralism, so that what is called pluralism is an understanding that clarifies and believes in differences in religion. Pluralism invites society to see the existence of religious differences as a realistic part of human life. Islam invites people who come from different religious beliefs to unite diversity in equality. In fact, pluralism wants a social order that is dialogical, tolerant and dynamic.

Pluralism is not an understanding that considers all religions to be the same, moreover pluralism is an understanding of respecting religious differences. With the diversity that exists in society, it often leads to destructive actions towards people of other religions. Therefore, pluralism will provide society with the view that every human being has the same rights, including in choosing a religion. Pluralism has a strong theological basis in Islamic literature. However, pluralism is not only for the Islamic context, but also in the global context. Pluralism is pluralism that recognizes differences.

In Indonesia, multicultural education is known as an approach that is considered more suitable for Indonesia's heterogeneous and pluralistic society. Multicultural education developed in Indonesia is in line with the development of democracy which is carried out as a counter to decentralization and regional autonomy policies. If this is not implemented carefully, it might actually plunge us into rational division (national disintegration and separatism).

The multicultural education model in Indonesia shows a diversity of goals that apply the strategies and means used to achieve them. Apart from that, it is possible that multicultural education will continue to develop like a rolling 'snowball', getting bigger and more widely discussed. And what is more important is that multicultural education can be implemented in the world of education in a multicultural country. In implementing multicultural education in Indonesia, the principle of solidarity should be developed, namely readiness to fight and join resistance for the recognition of other differences and not for one's own sake. Solidarity demands that we forget about efforts to strengthen identity, but instead demands that we fight together with others. In this way, it is hoped that a multicultural life based on awareness of one's own existence without denigrating others will soon be realized.

The large amount of diversity that exists in Indonesia should make Indonesia a good example in the international world in terms of pluralistic or diverse life. However, it is not easy to unite people who are different in terms of religion, race, culture and language. However, when the people realize that they are in an area that requires them to live side by side, then slowly but surely things can work out.

Multicultural education is education that places emphasis on the process of cultivating a way of life that is mutually respectful, sincere and tolerant of cultural diversity living in a society with a high level of plurality. In Indonesia, which has a highly diverse society, education has a very strategic role in managing diversity crea-

tively. The multiculturalism of Indonesian nationality is not yet fully understood by all members of society. Indeed, society has fully understood that every human being is born different, both physically and non-physically, but society's collective reasoning has not been able to accept the reality that each individual or certain group has a different belief system, culture, religion, race and ritual procedures. Multiculturalism as an understanding that emphasizes equality and equality of local cultures without ignoring the rights and existence of other cultures is important for us to understand together in the life of a multicultural society like Indonesia.

While adhering to the existing understanding of education through the importance of education for sustainable development, a conclusion can be drawn that an integrated educational concept is interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and inter-disciplinary in nature, an educational concept that not only has a vision of pure education, but also combines the concept of development from the perspective of The emerging economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects constitute the meaning of education for sustainable development.

## E. CONCLUSION

Multicultural education is an educational process that helps individuals develop ways of accepting, evaluating, and entering into cultural systems that are different from their own. Apart from that, you can apply it in social life. Multicultural education has four values, namely the value of equality, the value of tolerance, the value of democracy, and the value of pluralism. The values above have views that complement each other in addressing multiculturalism education.

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