

The Harmonization of Dakwah in the Local Traditions of the Tengger Tribe

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ABSTRAKSI (10PT)

Abstrak: Pada penelitian ini penulis mengangkat tentang bagaimana Harmonisasi Dakwah dalam tradisi lokal di Suku Tengger. Harmonisasi Dakwah disini adalah upaya untuk menyelaraskan nilai-nilai Dakwah agar bisa berjalan selaras di suatu komunitas yang multikultural. Dimana Harmonisasi Dakwah itu sendiri sangat diperlukan mengingat di Suku Tengger terdapat tradisi lokal yang masih menyandarkan pada praktek keagamaan dan ritual yang merupakan perpaduan dari budaya dan agama. Daerah tersebut masyarakatnya pemeluk agama Hindu, Budha dan Islam. Dari beberapa agama tersebut tentu memiliki budaya dan ritual keagamaan masing-masing. Salah satu praktek keagamaan yang terkenal yakni upacara Yadnya Kasada dimana ritual untuk persembahan kepada para Dewa di Gunung Bromo Suku Tengger, dimana masyarakat melakukan persembahan hasil bumi, hewan ternak sebagai simbol syukur kepada dewa-dewa khususnya Dewa Brahma. Pada penelitian inilah akan dijelaskan cara-cara bagaimana Harmonisasi Dakwah yang dilakukan tokoh-tokoh agama dalam berinteraksi dengan komunitasnya dengan tujuan menciptakan rasa persatuan dan saling pengertian juga meningkatkan rasa solidaritas di Suku Tengger. Salah satu cara dengan mendorong dialog dan kolaborasi antaragama dapat membantu menumbuhkan rasa saling menghormati dan memahami di antara kelompok agama yang berbeda.

Abstract: In this study, the author explores the concept of Dakwah Harmony within the local traditions of the Tengger Tribe. Dakwah Harmony refers to efforts to align the values of Dakwah so that it can coexist harmoniously within a multicultural community. This is particularly essential considering that the Tengger Tribe upholds local traditions deeply rooted in religious practices and rituals, which blend culture and religion. The community in this region consists of adherents of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam, each with its own cultural and religious rituals. One of the well-known religious practices is the Yadnya Kasada ceremony, a ritual offering to the deities of Mount Bromo by the Tengger Tribe, where the community presents agricultural produce and livestock as symbols of gratitude to the gods, particularly Lord Brahma. This research aims to explain the approaches religious leaders undertake to achieve Dakwah Harmony in their interactions with the community, to foster unity, and mutual understanding, and to enhance solidarity among the Tengger people. One approach involves promoting interfaith dialogue and collaboration, which can help cultivate mutual respect and understanding among different religious groups.

Keywords:

Harmony

Dakwah

Ritual

Local Tradition

Tengger Tribe

I. Introduction

The Tengger Tribe, also known as the Tengger people, is a unique community residing in the Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park in East Java, Indonesia. They are descendants of the ancient Majapahit Kingdom and have preserved their cultural traditions and beliefs for centuries. The

Tengger community is known for its strong sense of togetherness and deep connection to the natural environment, particularly the volcanic landscape surrounding their villages.

The Tengger community has a rich history and is renowned for its traditional practices, including the annual Yadnya Kasada ceremony, during which offerings are made to the gods at Mount Bromo. (Delphin & Sutisna, 2022). In this ceremony, the Tengger community offers agricultural produce, livestock, and other items as symbols of gratitude to their deities, particularly the god Brahma. This ritual symbolizes their respect for the volcano and the spirits that reside within it.

In addition to the Yadnya Kasada ritual, the Tengger Tribe also preserves a rich oral tradition through stories, prayers, and mantras passed down by elders to the younger generation. This phenomenon reflects a deep respect for local wisdom and the social norms that govern their daily lives. As an agrarian community, they lead a simple life with values such as cooperation, togetherness, and respect for nature.

The livelihood of the Tengger community is centered around skilled farming and horse breeding, with agriculture and animal husbandry playing a key role in their way of life. Despite facing modernization and external influences, the Tengger people have begun to adapt to the currents of modernity. Some of them have started to engage in the tourism industry as tour guides, homestay managers, or souvenir vendors. This phenomenon has helped improve their economy, but on the other hand, it has posed challenges in preserving their traditions and cultural authenticity from external influences. From this, the Tengger community has managed to maintain its cultural identity and continue to pass down its customs from generation to generation. Their sense of togetherness and strong connection to the homeland has helped them preserve their unique traditions and beliefs. The Tengger people have also adapted to changes over time, incorporating new technologies and practices while still preserving their ancestral heritage (Rachmat Safa'at, 2013). Through their dedication to customs and values, the Tengger community has created a cultural wealth that has endured for centuries.

Women in the Tengger community play a significant role, both in social and economic activities. Tengger women are typically active in agricultural work and also participate in religious and cultural rituals. This phenomenon reflects a high degree of equality between men and women in the Tengger community.

As a community living in the mountains, the Tengger people have a close relationship with nature. They believe that nature is a part of life that must be preserved and respected. This philosophy is reflected in the way they manage agricultural land and live their daily lives without harming the surrounding environment. This phenomenon serves as an example of a sustainable and environmentally friendly lifestyle.

From the phenomenon above, religious leaders need to understand the importance of aligning their preaching with local traditions to reach and connect effectively with the Tengger community. By incorporating their cultural practices and beliefs into their teachings, religious leaders can create a sense of familiarity and resonance that allows for a deeper understanding and acceptance of the message being conveyed. This harmonization not only strengthens the bond between the community and religious leaders but also helps preserve and respect the rich cultural heritage of the Tengger people. By doing this, religious leaders can ensure that their message is not only heard but also truly understood and embraced by the community as a whole (R. F. Sony Sukmawan, 2023). Mutual respect and understanding between religious leaders and the Tengger community can help bridge potential cultural gaps and foster a sense of unity and cooperation within the community. By appreciating and incorporating the traditions and customs of the Tengger people, religious leaders can demonstrate their commitment to inclusivity and cultural diversity. Ultimately, this approach can lead to the more effective and impactful spread of religious teachings and principles, creating a stronger and more cohesive community as a whole. For example, if a religious leader in the Tengger community takes the time to participate in ceremonies and

traditional rituals with the locals, it can demonstrate a deep respect for their beliefs and practices. This solidarity can help build trust and strengthen relationships, resulting in a more harmonious and cooperative relationship between religious leaders and the Tengger community.

The purpose of this research is to understand the ways in which religious leaders can interact with their community to foster a sense of unity and mutual understanding, while also strengthening their relationships and enhancing solidarity within the community.

II. Literature Review

A. *The History of Islam in the Tengger Community*

The history of Islam in the Tengger community is part of the long journey of the spread of Islam in Java, particularly in the Bromo mountain region. The Tengger people, who have long been known for their adherence to Hindu-Buddhist beliefs, have a unique story in their interaction with Islam. The spread of Islam in this area began around the 15th and 16th centuries when Islam entered Java through trade routes along the northern coast of the island. However, in mountainous areas like Tengger, the process of Islamization was not as rapid as in the coastal regions. The people in this area continued to hold on to their traditional beliefs, even as Islam began to spread in the surrounding regions.

When the Majapahit Kingdom began to decline, many people who adhered to Hindu-Buddhist beliefs migrated to remote areas, including the Tengger Mountains. They sought a safe place to preserve their ancestral traditions from the growing influence of Islam in the lowland areas of Java. This led the Tengger people to maintain their animistic and Hindu-Buddhist beliefs, even as they lived alongside the increasing Muslim population.

The process of Islam conversion in Tengger was not rapid but gradual and peaceful. Unlike other regions in Java that underwent mass conversions, the Tengger people continued to uphold their beliefs while slowly becoming more open to the influence of Islam. In the 19th century, a small portion of the Tengger community began to embrace Islam. However, despite converting to Islam, the Tengger people remained firmly committed to their cultural identity and local traditions, which still retained strong Hindu-Buddhist influences.

One of the most prominent aspects of the relationship between the Tengger people and Islam is their high religious tolerance. The Tengger community is known for deeply respecting Muslims and living peacefully alongside them. Religious traditions such as the Kasada ceremony, which is part of Tengger Hindu beliefs, continue to be held to this day. On the other hand, some Tengger people who have embraced Islam have begun to celebrate major Islamic holidays like Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, without abandoning their local beliefs and traditions.

As time has progressed, modernization and the influence of Islam have become stronger within the Tengger community, especially through education and interactions with people outside the mountainous region. Nevertheless, the majority of the Tengger people still practice their traditional beliefs, though Islamic influences have become integrated into their daily lives. The harmony between these two beliefs remains intact, making the Tengger community a real example of how Hinduism and Islam can coexist peacefully, without negating each other.

B. *The Role of Local Traditions in the Tengger Community*

Local traditions play a very important role in the life of the Tengger community, not only as a cultural identity but also as a social foundation that governs daily life. Amid rapid modernization and external influences, the Tengger community remains steadfast in preserving their ancestral traditions that have been passed down through generations. These traditions encompass various aspects of life, ranging from religious, and social, to their relationship with nature. Some key roles of local traditions in the Tengger community can be outlined as follows:

1) *Pillar of Cultural Identity*

Local traditions serve as markers of the unique identity of the Tengger community. Although a small portion of them have embraced Islam, the majority of the Tengger people still maintain their traditional Hindu-Buddhist beliefs. Their religious traditions, such as the Kasada Ceremony, serve as a strong symbol of this identity. Kasada is an important ritual in which the Tengger people offer agricultural produce to Sang Hyang Widhi at the crater of Mount Bromo. This tradition preserves their connection to nature and their ancestors, as well as solidifies a sense of togetherness as a community with a shared historical root (Sazjiyah, 2020).

2) *Social Glue*

Traditions in the Tengger community serve as a social glue that governs interactions and relationships among its members. Gotong royong, or cooperation, remains a daily practice in various activities, whether religious, agricultural, or social. This tradition not only promotes solidarity and cooperation but also strengthens values of togetherness, mutual respect, and helping one another among the community members. The role of traditional leaders, such as dukun (spiritual leaders), is also crucial in maintaining social harmony by leading important rituals (Ugik Romadi, 2023).

3) *Preserver of Environmental Balance*

The Tengger community holds a strong belief in its relationship with nature, which is reflected in various traditions and customary rituals. One of the roles of local traditions is to maintain the balance between humans and nature. For example, in the Kasada tradition, offerings made to the Bromo crater are seen as a way to maintain harmony with the gods and ancestral spirits believed to govern the mountain and its surrounding environment. The Tengger people also highly respect nature by practicing traditional farming and preserving the environment, which is regarded as a form of spiritual responsibility (Agus Sudrajat, 2024).

4) *Guardian of Religious Harmony*

Local traditions also play a role in maintaining harmony between different religions. In the Tengger community, Hindu-Buddhist traditions and animistic beliefs mix with the influence of Islam, especially among the converts or those who have embraced Islam. However, these differences in belief do not lead to conflict, because local traditions instill a very high value of tolerance. The Tengger people respect the Islamic practices followed by some of them, while still preserving their ancestral traditions (Siti Sitta Fitria, 2023). Thus, local traditions play an important role in fostering tolerance and interfaith harmony in the region.

5) *Strengthening Spirituality and Psychological Well-being*

For the Tengger community, local traditions not only serve a social function but also play a role in strengthening their spirituality and psychological well-being. Traditional ceremonies and religious rituals help them feel connected to their ancestors and greater spiritual forces. Through these practices, they gain a sense of security, inner peace, and the belief that they are protected by the natural forces and ancestors who continually accompany their lives (N. E. R. F. Sony Sukmawan, n.d.).

Local traditions in the Tengger community not only serve as a marker of cultural identity but also function as a social and spiritual foundation that maintains balance and harmony, both within the community and in their relationship with nature and other beliefs.

The unique blend of Islamic beliefs and local traditions in the Tengger community plays a significant role in shaping their social structure and cultural practices. These traditions, rooted in the community's history and geography, have been passed down through generations and continue to influence the daily lives of the Tengger people. By exploring the connection between Islamic teachings and customs, we can gain a deeper understanding of how these two forces coexist and interact within society. Moreover, examining the role of local traditions in the Tengger community can provide valuable insights into how cultural heritage shapes identity and fosters a sense of belonging among community members. By studying the traditions of the

Tengger people, we can appreciate the richness of their beliefs and values that have been intertwined within their society. These customs not only link them to the past but also provide a sense of continuity and connection to future generations. By respecting and preserving these traditions, the Tengger people have been able to maintain a strong cultural identity and solidarity, thus creating a sense of unity and belonging. For example, the annual Kasada ceremony held by the Tengger community in Indonesia is a testament to their cultural heritage and identity. This ritual, which involves offerings to the gods on Mount Bromo, not only strengthens their bond as a community but also reinforces shared history and values. However, not all traditions are beneficial or positive. In some cultures, harmful practices such as female genital mutilation are considered traditional and passed down through generations, perpetuating harm and suffering. This illustrates that not all traditions should be preserved or celebrated, as some may conflict with human rights and values.

Previous studies on religious harmony in various communities show that fostering understanding and respect for different beliefs can lead to peaceful coexistence and mutual acceptance (David Hermansyah, 2024). By promoting dialogue and education about various religions, communities can strive to create a more inclusive and harmonious society. Furthermore, initiatives that encourage interfaith collaboration and cooperation have successfully bridged divides and fostered unity among people from different religious backgrounds. In this way, traditions can become a source of strength and connection, uniting communities in a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration.

III. Research Method

This research will use a qualitative method with a literature review approach. The qualitative research method with a literature review approach relies on relevant sources of literature or references to discuss and analyze a particular topic. In this research, the literature review approach will be carried out by reviewing various sources such as books, journals, and articles that discuss topics related to da'wah, religion, and local traditions, particularly in the Tengger community.

The focus of this study is on how the methods of aligning da'wah can proceed harmoniously and how this process impacts a community with a strong Hindu tradition. This subject is not only about da'wah activities themselves but also how da'wah can be carried out without disturbing or offending the cultural values that have long been believed and practiced by the Tengger community.

This approach is taken to gather existing information and theories regarding how da'wah can be aligned or harmonized with the values of local traditions in the Tengger community. The researcher will study literature related to the concept of harmonization in da'wah, understand the cultural characteristics of the Tengger community, and explore how their local traditions are maintained amidst the presence of Islam. From these various sources, this study is expected to provide a deep and comprehensive understanding of the integration of da'wah with local traditions without erasing local cultural identity. The literature review method also allows the researcher to analyze how a da'wah approach that respects and considers local traditions can play a role in creating better relationships between Islamic da'wah and indigenous communities such as the Tengger.

The data collection technique in this study uses the library research method, which involves reading, noting, and processing research materials. Library research relies on research materials from libraries, such as books, journals, encyclopedias, or magazines from various data sources. This library study is used to obtain information based on conceptual facts or theoretical facts, rather than based on the researcher's perceptions.

In this study, the data analysis technique will focus on analyzing relevant sources of literature. Through library research, the researcher does not collect data from the field but analyzes existing

literature, such as books, articles, journals, and other relevant documents. The steps in data analysis are as follows: ***Collection and Selection of Literature***: The collection of literature here refers to the effort to gather relevant and credible references, such as books, journal articles, research reports, theses, dissertations, or government reports related to the Tengger Tribe, da'wah, and the relationship between religion and culture. This literature can be obtained from libraries, online journals, academic databases, or other official sources. Literature Selection refers to the researcher's step of filtering the literature while ensuring that the chosen references have high academic quality and are relevant to the topic of this study. The next step is ***Organizing Literature Based on Themes or Categories***, The researcher can organize the literature into specific categories or themes to facilitate analysis. In the study of the harmonization of da'wah within the local traditions of the Tengger tribe, some main categories or themes may include: The History and Origins of the Tengger Tribe, Religious Traditions and Practices, and Interfaith Relations. This categorization greatly helps the researcher to see the connections between one theme and another and understand the overall structure of the literature being analyzed.

In addition to the steps above, the next step is ***Drawing Conclusions***, Based on the analysis conducted, the researcher can conclude the harmonization of dakwah within the local traditions of the Tengger tribe. These conclusions may include a comprehensive understanding of the successful or unsuccessful da'wah practices in the Indigenous community, perspectives on da'wah approaches that align with the values and beliefs of the Tengger people, and recommendations that may emerge from the literature review for more effective and peaceful dakwah approaches in Indigenous communities.

IV. Discussion

A. *Belief and Religious Practices in the Tengger Community*

Research on the beliefs and religious practices in the Tengger community reveals that their belief system is a unique blend of Hindu-Buddhist religion, animism, and in some cases, the influence of Islam. The Tengger community is known for its ability to preserve ancestral traditions, despite being surrounded by the ongoing religious developments and changes occurring in East Java.

The religious beliefs of the Tengger community are deeply connected to nature and the spirits of their ancestors. They believe that the natural environment, especially Mount Bromo, which is regarded as a sacred mountain, holds great spiritual power. Mount Bromo is the center of many religious ceremonies, including the Kasada ceremony, where the community offers agricultural produce to the crater of the mountain as a sign of gratitude and respect to Sang Hyang Widhi and the ancestral spirits believed to reside on the mountain. This ritual reflects their belief in the importance of maintaining a harmonious relationship with nature as a form of reverence for the spiritual forces believed to protect and bless them.

In addition, although the majority of the Tengger community still maintains these traditional beliefs, the influence of Islam has also started to emerge, particularly in areas more accessible to the forces of modernization. Some Tengger people have converted to Islam, though this conversion has not severed the ancestral traditions that are still highly regarded. Those who have embraced Islam often integrate elements of Tengger culture into their daily lives, reflecting a high level of tolerance within the community. The celebration of major Islamic holidays such as Idul Fitri and Idul Adha has also been adopted by some, yet it continues to coexist alongside Hindu-Buddhist traditions. Religious practices in the Tengger community are highly collective and hold deep social significance (Rudi Setiawan, 2023). In his journal "*Mempertahankan Kehidupan Toleransi Beragama Suku Tengger Bromo Melalui Peran Tokoh Agama, Volume XII, No. 2, July 2023*" Rudi Setiawan explained that major ceremonies, such as Kasada, involve the entire community, demonstrating the strong social bonds that are formed through their religious practices. The cooperation in preparing for the ceremony, along with the full participation of various segments of society, shows that for the Tengger people, religion is not merely a personal belief, but also a unifying tool and a means of maintaining social harmony. This aligns because of the role of religious figures who have an ideal perspective that emphasizes justice within the framework of

diversity. Thus, in the Tengger community, religion does not act as a divider but as a unifier, reflecting this broader perspective. This is in line with the goal of this research, which emphasizes the role of religious figures in interacting with their community to foster a sense of unity and mutual understanding. In everyday life, religious practices are also seen in simple rituals, such as prayers spoken before farming or starting work, and respect for the dukun or spiritual leaders who play a crucial role in leading religious ceremonies. The dukun holds a special status in society as they are believed to have the ability to connect with the spiritual world and bring blessings to the people.

Thus, the beliefs and religious practices in the Tengger community not only reflect the religious diversity that lives in harmony but also demonstrate how ancestral traditions and beliefs continue to play a central role in their spiritual and social life. The Tengger people have successfully maintained their unique and distinct religious identity amidst the changing times, showcasing the strength of their traditions and their ability to adapt without abandoning their cultural roots. This aligns with the objective of this research, which suggests that these beliefs and practices can enhance the sense of solidarity within their community.

To fully understand the dynamics of interfaith relations in the Tengger community, it is important to explore the beliefs and religious practices that shape their worldview. Islam plays an important role in the Tengger community, influencing everything from daily rituals to social norms. By delving into the Islamic teachings embraced by the Tengger people, we can gain insights into the values and principles that guide their interactions with followers of other religions. This section will provide an in-depth overview of how Islamic teachings are integrated into the social fabric of the Tengger community, highlighting how religion shapes attitudes toward interfaith dialogue and cooperation. Understanding the role of Islam in the Tengger community also allows us to appreciate the richness of the cultural traditions and customs that have developed over centuries. Islamic teachings not only shape the spiritual beliefs of the Tengger people but also influence the social structure and dynamics of their community (Endang Kumala Ratih, 2020). In another journal, "*Konstruksi Sosial Upacara Adat Karo Suku Tengger di Desa Tosari Kecamatan Tosari Kabupaten Pasuruan, October 2020, 9(2)*", Endang Kumala Ratih it is stated that the religious practices that have been carried out can unite the religious diversity of the people in the Tengger tribe. From this condition, social interaction and interfaith tolerance will be established. This aligns with the goal of this research, which is to enhance the sense of solidarity within their community.

By tracing the meeting points between religion and culture in the Tengger community, we can gain a deeper understanding of the complexity of their worldview and the interconnection between their religious and social practices. Ultimately, studying the influence of Islam on the Tengger community offers valuable insights into broader themes of tolerance, acceptance, and coexistence in a multicultural world. From the explanation above, it is hoped that religious leaders will always interact with their community to foster a sense of unity and mutual understanding.

B. Beliefs and Traditional Rituals in Tengger Culture

The fusion of these two belief systems has created a unique tapestry of traditions and customs passed down from generation to generation. From the annual Yadnya Kasada ceremony to daily prayers and offerings at sacred places and temples, the Tengger people have found a way to honor their ancestors while embracing Islamic teachings. This religious blend not only helps preserve their cultural heritage but also fosters a sense of unity and solidarity within the community. Respect for diversity and appreciation for different beliefs have allowed the Tengger people to thrive in an ever-changing world, demonstrating the strength of religious tolerance and mutual understanding. One example of this unique fusion of traditions is seen in how the Tengger people combine the practice of fasting during Ramadan with their traditional Hindu rituals during important ceremonies (Woodward, 2004). In his book "*ISLAM JAWA: Kesalehan Normatif Versus Kebatinan*" Woodward explains that Islam took on a distinctive Javanese form. This is demonstrated by tracing the doctrines and rituals of Islam (which are sourced from the Qur'an and Hadith), as well as

historical studies on why Javanese Islam developed into its current form. The study reveals that Javanese teachings are heavily influenced by Sufi doctrine regarding the relationship between humanity and divinity, as well as a process of Islamization of Hindu-Buddhist elements and other pre-Islamic traditions. This Islamization is reflected in several myths and stories in the *Babad* (chronicles). In the concept of kingdoms in Java, the author was able to reconcile two religious models in Javanese land. In this book, the author manages to balance between the container, its contents, and Islam itself. The Sultan is symbolized as the content, and the people as the container, which ultimately leads to a process of legitimizing the Sultan's power over his people, thus creating balance in Javanese society.

The belief system that coexists harmoniously has strengthened their bonds as a community and allowed them to pass on the wealth of their cultural heritage to future generations. The Tengger people are known for maintaining the customs and beliefs passed down by their ancestors, despite the increasing influence of external religions, such as Islam and Christianity, in Indonesia.

Research findings show that the Tengger people's beliefs and traditional rituals are largely rooted in Hindu-Buddhist teachings, which have blended with animistic elements. These beliefs recognize the existence of natural forces and ancestral spirits believed to influence the daily lives of the community. One of the most prominent rituals in Tengger culture is the Kasada ceremony, held annually at Mount Bromo. In this ceremony, the Tengger people offer agricultural products to the mountain deity as an expression of gratitude and a request for blessings. Mount Bromo itself is viewed as a spiritual center and a symbol of sacred natural power.

Other rituals such as *Tawur Agung* and *Entas-entas* also play an important role in the life of the Tengger community, where these rituals serve as a means to maintain balance between the physical and spiritual worlds. *Tawur Agung*, for instance, is a ceremony for cleansing the universe from negative influences, while *Entas-entas* is performed as a tribute to the spirits of deceased ancestors. In addition to traditional beliefs, this research also found that although some members of the Tengger community have embraced Islam, they continue to uphold ancestral traditions and participate in customary rituals. This demonstrates a high level of tolerance and pluralism within the Tengger community. They can coexist harmoniously, combining ancient traditions with more modern religious practices without conflict.

C. Challenges in Harmonizing Islamic Preaching with Local Traditions

One of the challenges faced by the Tengger community in harmonizing Islamic preaching with local traditions is how to find a balance between Islamic teachings and deeply rooted Hindu practices (R. F. Sony Sukmawan, 2023). In his book titled "*Sangsaka Saujana Tengger*" Sony Sukmawan In his book titled "*Sangsaka Saujana Tengger*," he explains that although they have successfully integrated fasting during Ramadan into their customs, there are still conflicts that arise. For instance, some Hindu traditional ceremonies may involve practices that are not in line with Islamic beliefs, causing tension within the community. Finding a way to resolve these differences while maintaining unity and respecting each other's beliefs remains an ongoing challenge for the Tengger community. Despite these obstacles, their commitment to mutual understanding and tolerance continues to be a guiding strength in preserving their unique cultural identity. One specific example is during Eid al-Fitr when Muslims break their fast and celebrate the end of Ramadan. Some Tengger people may find it difficult to participate in traditional Hindu ceremonies while also celebrating this important Islamic holiday. This may lead to discussions and negotiations within the community to find a balance that honors both religious traditions.

These discussions often highlight the importance of respect, empathy, and compromise in maintaining harmony among the diverse beliefs within the Tengger community. By navigating this complex intersection of beliefs, the Tengger people demonstrate their resilience and commitment to preserving their cultural heritage in the face of external pressures. Moreover, their willingness to engage in open dialogue and find common ground serves as a model for fostering unity and understanding in an increasingly diverse and interconnected world. A more detailed example of this

might involve situations where members of the Tengger community face challenges in reconciling their beliefs with those of more dominant religious groups, leading to tension and conflict within the community. This could result in a breakdown of communication and cooperation, hindering efforts to maintain harmony and preserve their cultural heritage. It is essential for individuals and communities to actively work toward finding common ground and understanding in addressing these challenges. By engaging in open dialogue and demonstrating a willingness to compromise, conflicts can be resolved, and unity restored. It is important to remember that diversity should be celebrated, and differences should be embraced, rather than leading to division and disputes. Only by uniting and respecting each other's beliefs can harmony be maintained and cultural heritage preserved for future generations.

D. Strategies for Harmonizing Religious Dakwah with Local Traditions

Education and awareness programs can play a crucial role in bridging the gap between religious da'wah and local traditions. By educating the community about different religious beliefs and practices, misunderstandings and stereotypes can be eliminated, leading to greater acceptance and tolerance. Additionally, encouraging interfaith dialogue and collaboration can help foster mutual respect and understanding among different religious groups. It is also important for religious leaders to be sensitive to the cultural norms and traditions of the communities they serve, and to adapt their messages and practices accordingly. By taking these steps, religious da'wah can be harmonized with local traditions, creating a more inclusive and cohesive society.

Interfaith dialogue and collaboration can also serve as a platform to address common social issues and work towards collective solutions (Sarjito, 2023). In the journal titled "*Agama Islam, Militansi dan Pertahanan Negara: Kebijakan Menjaga Keseimbangan, Vol. 7 No. 2 Desember 2023*", Aris Sarjito stated that religious institutions play an important role in fostering a diverse society to live together in peace. In addition, Sarjito also emphasizes that religious leaders have an important role in promoting dialogue/discussion and interfaith collaboration. Through collective discussions and initiatives, individuals from different religious backgrounds can unite to address issues such as poverty, discrimination, and environmental sustainability. This not only encourages unity and solidarity among religious communities but also demonstrates the positive impact that can be achieved through interfaith cooperation. Ultimately, by embracing diversity and working together to achieve common goals, society can become more resilient and inclusive, benefiting all its members regardless of their religious beliefs.

Community engagement is an important aspect of fostering cooperation and understanding between religions. By actively participating in community events, volunteering for charitable activities, and attending interfaith dialogues, individuals can build relationships and bridge divides between different religious groups. A grassroots approach that promotes harmony and collaboration can create a ripple effect throughout the community, resulting in a more tolerant and compassionate society. Moreover, by interacting with people of different faiths in a spirit of mutual respect and openness, individuals can learn from each other's perspectives and enrich their understanding of the world around them. This exchange of ideas and experiences can lead to innovative solutions to complex issues and foster a sense of interconnectedness among all members of society.

E. The Impact of Harmonization on Social Cohesion.

Social cohesion refers to the ability of a society or group to maintain unity and togetherness to achieve common goals. Social cohesion can influence the behavior and social interactions among community members and can strengthen trust and bonds between them. Strong social cohesion can help communities overcome various challenges and differences that arise within the group or society. In multicultural communities, the attitude of social cohesion is essential to ensure that unity and collaboration within the community are maintained.

In addition to promoting unity and collaboration within their community, the harmonization efforts made by religious leaders also have a significant impact on social cohesion (Musyafak & Nisa, 2020). In his book titled "*Resiliensi Masyarakat Melawan Radikalisme*", Musyafak & Nisa

explains that by emphasizing common values and fostering understanding and respect among different religious groups, these leaders have helped reduce tensions and increase a sense of belonging and inclusion among diverse populations. This, in turn, contributes to a more peaceful and cohesive society, where individuals can live harmoniously despite differences. The efforts of religious leaders in promoting harmony and social cohesion are a clear example of the positive impact that can be achieved through interfaith cooperation and dialogue.

Fostering interfaith understanding can also be applied to other areas of society. By prioritizing open communication, empathy, and a willingness to learn from one another, individuals and communities can work towards building bridges and finding common ground (Salahuddin, 2024). In his book titled *"Komunikasi Dalam Organisasi Multikultural"*, Salahuddin explains that multicultural communication must understand cultural contexts, norms, and varying expectations. This certainly includes how to actively listen, empathize, and adapt to diverse communication models. This approach not only strengthens relationships and fosters unity but also helps overcome underlying prejudices and stereotypes that can lead to conflict and division. Looking to the future, it is clear that the lessons learned from the success of interfaith initiatives can serve as a blueprint for creating a more inclusive and harmonious world for all.

Furthermore, Salahuddin explains that poor or ineffective communication can lead to misunderstandings, conflicts, and decreased productivity. Therefore, developing communication skills is essential in a community. Barriers to harmonization efforts include deeply rooted cultural and religious biases, political tensions, and economic disparities. Overcoming these challenges requires a collaborative effort from all stakeholders, including government officials, religious leaders, and grassroots organizations. Additionally, ongoing dialogue and education will be crucial in fostering understanding and acceptance across diverse communities. By recognizing and directly addressing these barriers, we can pave the way for a more peaceful and interconnected society.

These harmonization efforts include promoting interfaith dialogue and collaboration, encouraging economic development in marginalized communities, and implementing policies that foster social inclusion and equality. It is also crucial to address systemic issues such as discrimination and disparities, which can ignite tensions and hinder progress toward harmony. By working together to overcome these challenges, we can create a more inclusive and cohesive society where all individuals can thrive and coexist peacefully. Through these guidelines, we can strengthen the foundations of harmony and peace within society, turning diversity into an affirmative strength rather than a divisive force. Furthermore, interfaith and intercultural cooperation can contribute to the social and spiritual well-being of all community members. In this way, we can establish a safe and supportive environment for every individual without being judgmental.

Everyone has the right to be happy and content in their environment without harboring anger or being discriminatory. By creating a cohesive and inclusive society, we can also reduce interpersonal conflicts and social tensions (Hidayatulloh & Saumantri, 2023). In their journal *"Pengembangan Pemahaman Sikap Moderasi Beragama Berbasis Nilai Inklusivitas Pada Mahasiswa di Perguruan Tinggi, Vol. 7 No. 1 Juni 2023"* it is stated that fostering an attitude of inclusivity paves the way for strong cooperation between religious communities in various aspects, including religious practices. By understanding the values of inclusivity, many issues can be successfully resolved, and a shared goal can be achieved creating a safe, peaceful, and harmonious society for everyone. However, in reality, not every individual or group may be willing or able to offer advice or participate in the development of an inclusive society. Some people may endure discrimination or be reluctant to integrate with other groups. This could pose a challenge in efforts to create a harmonious and inclusive society. Therefore, we must remain engaged in education and advocacy about the importance of cooperation and participation in building a better society. By providing understanding and support to individuals or groups that are largely skeptical, we can foster mindsets and attitudes that do not undermine diversity.

Through cooperation and effective communication, differences can be overcome, and unity in diversity can be achieved (Akhmadi, 2019). In their journal *"Moderasi Beragama Dalam*

Keragaman Indonesia Religious Moderatio In Indonesia, Vol. 13, No. 2 Maret 2019” states that in multicultural communities, human interaction is quite intense, so every member of the community must possess the necessary social skills to engage in interpersonal interactions. These abilities encompass three areas: *cooperation, collaboration and conflict resolution, care, and compassion*. Additionally, it is important to strengthen teamwork so that everyone can understand and support each other. By building good relationships between groups, we can create a safe and comfortable environment for everyone.

Through active dialogue and discussion, we can identify solutions that can resolve differences and strengthen relationships (Santoso et al., 2023). In this way, we can work together to create an inclusive and harmonious society for future generations. However, in certain situations, efforts to improve team cooperation can lead to conflicts and misunderstandings. Moreover, working together can also create an inclusive environment where we can achieve greater success in building a peaceful and harmonious society. Everyone will benefit from the collaboration and reciprocal learning that takes place among them. Therefore, it is crucial for every individual and group to actively participate in efforts to create a more inclusive and harmonious environment. Through communication and cooperation, we can strengthen our bonds with one another and create a more positive environment. By doing so, we can create a more harmonious and peaceful society where everyone is treated fairly and without discrimination. Conflicts can be reduced, and diversity can become a strength for the community when there is a strong sense of cooperation and teamwork.

Each individual will feel safe and valued in this harmonious and inclusive environment. For this reason, all of us need to commit to strengthening our bonds with one another and creating a more harmonious and peaceful environment. However, there is a possibility that not every individual or group will share the same values, which is why conflicts may still arise despite efforts to create a peaceful and harmonious society. Additionally, external factors such as differences in political or economic interests can also influence the stability of relationships between groups. Therefore, we need to continue encouraging communication and tolerance among various community groups. By highlighting differences and fostering cooperation and mutual respect, we can strengthen the foundations of an inclusive and harmonious community. While there will always be challenges, the community must work together to maintain harmony and stability in their relationships to create a diverse and cohesive society. This will require commitment and cooperation from all parties involved, including community leaders, government, and individuals at the grassroots level. Through an inclusive and collaborative approach, we can build a strong foundation to ensure that differences do not become a source of conflict but rather become a strength that enriches our diversity. By valuing and understanding different perspectives, we can create an environment that supports growth and development for all members of society. In this way, we can achieve our shared goal of creating a just, harmonious, and prosperous society for all. While an inclusive and collaborative approach can help reduce conflicts, not all differences can be resolved through dialogue and understanding. Some differences may remain a source of tension and conflict that are difficult to resolve through such approaches.

However, this does not mean that we should simply give up. Instead, we need to find new ways to address differences that cannot be resolved through dialogue. One approach is to establish effective mediation mechanisms, which can help the conflicting parties reach fair and sustainable agreements. In this way, we can ensure that conflicts arising from differences do not damage relationships among community members but rather become opportunities to strengthen diversity and the overall sustainability of the community. By implementing effective mediation mechanisms, we can avoid the escalation of conflicts that could harm relationships between individuals and groups. Through this approach, we can ensure that existing differences do not become obstacles to cooperation and mutual understanding within the community. This way, we can create an inclusive and harmonious environment where diversity is not only accepted but also valued as a source of collective strength and wealth.

In addition, through effective mediation mechanisms, we can also provide an opportunity for each individual to feel heard and valued. By allowing space for various viewpoints and opinions,

we can build constructive dialogue and strengthen mutual respect among community members. In this way, we can create a strong foundation for building harmonious and sustainable relationships amidst existing differences. Through continuous and collaborative efforts, we can transform challenges into opportunities to enrich and strengthen our community together.

V. Conclusion

The religious beliefs and practices of the Tengger community are a blend of Hindu-Buddhist teachings, animism, and Islamic influences. Despite the presence of major religions, the Tengger people have maintained their ancestral traditions, with Mount Bromo serving as a spiritual center. Rituals such as Kasada, in which they offer agricultural products as a symbol of gratitude, demonstrate a strong connection between their beliefs and nature. Additionally, they worship Hindu gods through ceremonies based on the traditional calendar. Islam has also begun to influence some parts of the Tengger community, although traditional practices remain in place. The integration of Islamic teachings with local culture reflects a high level of tolerance within this community, where celebrations like Idul Fitri are observed alongside Hindu-Buddhist traditions. Religious practices in the Tengger community are collective and hold profound social significance, strengthening solidarity and social harmony. Ancestral traditions and beliefs continue to play an important role in their spiritual and social life, demonstrating their ability to adapt without abandoning their cultural identity.

In this regard, this research can answer the efforts of harmonizing da'wah within the local traditions of the Tengger ethnic group, by identifying ways in which religious leaders can interact with their community to foster a sense of unity and mutual understanding, while also strengthening their relationships and increasing solidarity within the community. The approaches taken include enhancing cooperation to create an inclusive society and holding active dialogues/discussions to identify solutions amidst existing differences. Furthermore, in multicultural communication, religious figures must understand the cultural context and norms present within the Tengger community itself.

Examining the impact of participation in traditional ceremonies and rituals on community cohesion will provide insights into effective strategies to enhance harmony and cooperation within religious communities. By understanding the religious dynamics of the Tengger ethnic group, this research can contribute to a deeper appreciation of the diversity and complexity of religious practices, particularly within the Tengger community and in Indonesia more broadly.

Future research opportunities in this field could focus on exploring the impact of da'wah initiatives in promoting tolerance and mutual understanding among different religious and cultural groups. Additionally, studying the effectiveness of community-based programs in fostering social cohesion could provide valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners. Furthermore, investigating the role of media and technology in promoting or mitigating intergroup conflicts could help inform strategies to encourage harmony in an increasingly interconnected world.

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