

The Role of Tasamuh According to Islam in maintaining National Unity and Integrity

Tolhah Toha Nawawi

Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Hukum Gunung Jati

Email: tolkah@stihgunungjati.ac.id

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Abstract. With increasing polarization and conflict occurring at various levels of society, it is important to understand how the principles of tasamuh can be used as a basis for achieving social harmony and national unity. This research aims to explore the role of tasamuh (acceptance or tolerance) in maintaining national unity and unity in social, political and cultural contexts. This research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods. The results of this research confirm that the concept of tasamuh or tolerance in Islam has a fundamental role in promoting social harmony, harmony and unity in a diverse society. This study highlights the importance of respect for differences, a deep understanding of different religious beliefs and practices, and the need for open communication and constructive dialogue. The findings of this research emphasize that the application of inclusive values, respect for diversity, and a deep understanding of religious teachings and practices will form a strong basis for building a harmonious, fair and just society. In addition, research also highlights that broad knowledge and a high attitude of tolerance can contribute to encouraging broader understanding and avoiding prejudice that can trigger conflict.

1. INTRODUCTION

The emergence of a diverse and intricate Indonesian society has posed considerable difficulties in preserving national cohesion and harmony. Amidst a growingly divided political climate, conflicts between groups are frequently sparked by contrasting ideological perspectives (Jauhari, 2021). The presence of cultural, religious, and ethnic variety can exacerbate the divide between various populations due to differing perspectives. Indisputably, religious and cultural disparities have consistently plagued the history of Indonesia, leading to social conflicts (Syamsoni, 2015).

Amidst this dynamic, it is crucial for society to acknowledge the significance of the notion of "tasamuh" or tolerance in the nation's existence (Huda, 2010). This concept emphasizes the significance of valuing one another's distinctions, encompassing not only religious and cultural diversity, but also divergent political perspectives and ideologies. By comprehending the notion of tasamuh, it is anticipated that society can establish productive discourse, enhance tolerance, and cultivate mutual respect across diverse social groupings (Sholeh, 2014).

Tasamuh is a disposition characterized by showing deference towards others in the exercise of their entitlements. Tasamuh originates from the term "samaha," which can be defined as the practice of tolerance or referred to as tolerance. Tasamuh is characterized by an amiable disposition, adaptability in conduct, and a lack of feeling overwhelmed by the presence of diversity (Jamarudin, 2016). Tasamuh is characterized by the practice of exercising patience and self-restraint to avoid causing disturbance or harassment to others. "Tasamuh, in a broad sense, refers to a praiseworthy disposition or ethical conduct in interpersonal relationships, characterized by a mutual regard among individuals within the parameters set by Islamic principles" (Kadarusman, 2023). Some individuals perceive tasamuh, or tolerance, as an approach of embracing and promoting peace in the face of various circumstances, including religious tolerance. Therefore, tasamuh can also be understood as "religious tolerance" (Sabir, 2016).

In Islam, diversity and tolerance are longstanding principles. Islam demonstrated tolerance towards differences even before the Law of Tolerance was established in Europe in 1689, as evidenced by historical records (Umam, 2014). The Medina charter provides evidence of tolerance by ensuring that all religious and ethnic groups in Medina are granted equal rights, treatment, and obligations, without exerting their influence over other groups based on religious or social grounds.

The acknowledgment of equitable rights cannot be disentangled from the Prophet's involvement in resolving a conflict arising from disparities. (Ichrom, 2020).

In relation to inter-religious tasamuh, it should be interpreted as an attitude of being able to live with individuals of other religions, while giving them the freedom to carry out their respective religious principles or worship, without any coercion or pressure, whether to carry out their worship or not. (Nurhadi, 2019). Moreover, Allah SWT has also given teachings to His people that we must make everyone friends, namely in the Al-Quran Surah Al-Mummlahanah verses 8-9.

لَا يَنْهَىٰكُمْ اللَّهُ عَنِ الَّذِينَ لَمْ يُقَاتِلُوكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ وَلَمْ يُخْرِجُوا مِنْ دِينِكُمْ أَنَّ تَبَرُّوهُمْ وَيُقْسِطُوا إِلَيْهِمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُقْسِطِينَ

It means:

Allah does not forbid you to do good and be fair to those who do not fight you because of religion and do not (also) expel you from your land. Indeed, Allah loves those who act justly.

Indeed, Allah only forbids you to make as your friends those who fight you because of religion and expel you from your land, and help (others) to expel you. And whoever makes them friends, those are the wrongdoers.

This is how Islamic teachings teach tolerance, thereby helping to improve harmonious relations between human beings so as to create order in the sphere of life. This tolerance can be sustainable if each individual follows and understands several things well. Within this framework, this research aims to analyze the role of tasamuh as a principle underlying social harmony and national unity.

It is hoped that this research will provide in-depth insight into the contribution of tasamuh in reducing tensions between groups and strengthening social ties in a diverse society. It is also hoped that these findings can provide valuable input for the development of public policies that support cultural diversity and social harmony in Indonesia. In addition, it is hoped that this research can become a stepping stone for further research in the field of studies on national diversity and unity.

2. METHOD

This research was conducted using a descriptive qualitative research strategy, which can be defined as research that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people as well as observable behavior. This research approach was utilized by the author. This kind of research is classified as a kind of library research because it is based on the problem that the author is researching. More specifically, this kind of research is the kind of research that is carried out by collecting data and information with the assistance of a variety of books that are related to the problem that the author is researching and that will be discussed in this research. (Sugiyono and Sugiyono, 2011). In order to produce reliable findings, this investigation makes use of not one but two distinct methods: a conceptual approach and a statutory approach. The conceptual approach is a way of thinking that differs from the perspectives and doctrines that have developed in Islamic law in relation to Tasamuh.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Concept of Tasamuh in Islam

Tasamuh is a feeling of mutual respect and respect between humans towards other humans. The concept of tasamuh has been touched on in several verses in the Qur'an, one of which is surah Al-Hujurat verse 13, Allah Swt. said:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ
لِتَعَارَفُوا ۗ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتَقْوَمُ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١٣﴾

It means:

"O people! Indeed, We created you from a man and a woman, then We made you into nations and tribes so that you may know each other. Indeed, the noblest among you in the sight of Allah is the one who is most pious. Indeed, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Compliant."

In order to foster overall inclusivity, the initial measure that may be undertaken is to effectively handle and address divergent viewpoints that may emerge within our familial circle, including within our fellow adherents of Islam. An attitude of acceptance is fostered via endeavors to cultivate unity and concord, alongside a conscious recognition of variety. It is crucial to bear in mind that we all belong to a single human lineage, characterized by shared characteristics and resemblances (Wasitaatmadja, 2017). Thus, the emergence of affection, mutual understanding, and a readiness to accept differences would foster a robust attitude of tolerance. Within the realm of religious interpretation and practice, the Qur'an underscores the significance for its followers to consult the teachings of Allah (al-Qur'an) and the model set by the Prophet (sunnah) (Syihab, 1996). This underscores the necessity for meticulous analysis of religious doctrines and rituals, as well as the significance of cultivating a broad-minded mindset that embraces diversity with profound comprehension. By implementing the principles of tasamuh and harmony in our daily lives, we can actively contribute to the creation of a society that is both tolerant and harmonious.

In the context of inter-religious tolerance, tolerance should be understood as an attitude that enables individuals to coexist with communities of different religious beliefs, while freely exercising their own religious practices without any external influence or compulsion to engage in or abstain from worship. This practice should be implemented through tangible activities in everyday life, particularly in the interactions among neighbors (Siradj, 2013). Genuine tolerance is demonstrated when individuals who follow a particular religion actively engage in cooperative behavior, cohabit peacefully, and contribute positively to society, rather than simply discussing or conceptualizing the idea of tolerance. Consequently, fostering mutual comprehension and reverence necessitates the cultivation of regular social exchanges, which forge robust connections among diverse religious factions, so enabling individuals to coexist together despite their disparate convictions (Arifin, 2016). Thus, tolerance values can manifest as a tangible reality in actual social existence.

In his work, Salim (2008) identified four primary reasons that contribute to the prevalent and characteristic attitude of tolerance among Muslims towards non-Muslims, as emphasized by Dr. Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi. Firstly, it is crucial to maintain a reverential demeanor towards the inherent worth and value of every individual, irrespective of their religious beliefs, ethnicity, or ethnic heritage. This perspective asserts that each person is entitled to equal respect. Furthermore, it is important to acknowledge that variations in religious convictions are an inherent aspect of Allah SWT's design, and He grants individuals the autonomy to opt for either faith or non-belief. Hence, the act of compelling someone to adopt a specific religious belief cannot be morally justified.

Furthermore, Islamic doctrine highlights that it is not incumbent upon a Muslim to pass judgment or administer punishment onto non-believers due to their lack of faith, as ultimately, it is solely Allah SWT who will determine their destiny in the hereafter. This engenders tranquility within the heart of a Muslim, eliminating the necessity for internal discord between the duty to exhibit kindness and equity towards others, while steadfastly adhering to one's own religious convictions. Furthermore, the principles of Islam promote equitable behavior and the dissemination of religious ideas with a dignified demeanor, even towards individuals who believe in multiple deities. In at-

Tawbah: 6, Allah SWT emphasizes the importance of upholding virtuous conduct, especially when engaging with others who hold different religious beliefs. Simultaneously, Allah SWT denounces unjust actions, regardless of whether they are carried out by non-believers (al-Maidah: 8). These perspectives collectively establish a solid foundation for fostering an attitude of tolerance within Islamic religious beliefs, promoting reverence for religious liberty and the equitable treatment of all individuals in the eyes of God.

According to Rosyidi (2019), the principle of tolerance (Tasamuh) is regarded as the primary attribute of Islamic teachings. The Islamic notion of tolerance encompasses a wide range of topics, including matters of faith, worship, and everyday interactions (muamalah). Islam places great emphasis on the notion of "laa ikraaha fi al-dien" which translates to "there is no compulsion in religion". Nevertheless, this idea does not negate the presence of da'wah in Islam, which primarily entails extending an invitation rather than using coercion. Non-Muslims, particularly dhimmis, residing in Muslim communities or countries with a Muslim majority should not be compelled to embrace Islam. However, their safety is ensured as long as they fulfill their obligation of paying the jizyah.

Islam demonstrates tolerance in areas of worship as well. The execution of worship in Islam is intentionally designed to be non-burdensome. For instance, in situations where water is unavailable, Islam permits the use of tayamum as a replacement for ablution. If an individual is unable to stand, it is acceptable to engage in prayer while seated. Similarly, when it comes to fasting, if an individual is unwell, it is acceptable to compensate for it at a later date (qadha). The act of simplifying and reducing the difficulty of tasks demonstrates that Islam is a religion that is accepting and accommodating when it comes to religious practices (Yasir, 2014).

In the field of muamalah, Islam promotes the practice of treating others with kindness and respect in social interactions, regardless of whether they are Muslims or non-Muslims (Hafidhuddin, 2003). For instance, if a Muslim individual has a neighbor who does not practice Islam and requires assistance, it is anticipated that the Muslim individual will offer aid. When presented with a gift, it is customary to graciously accept it. In addition, it is customary for Muslims to pay a visit to their non-Muslim neighbors when they are unwell. A Muslim must uphold such etiquette in order to foster concord among religious communities. Islam is characterized as a religion that promotes tolerance, charity, and harmony within diverse communities

Tasamuh's role in maintaining national unity and integrity

As social humans, we certainly cannot live without the help of others, even to the point of death. Moreover, our social environment is a multicultural society which has a diversity of colors, ranging from religion, race, ethnicity, to thought patterns. So, when living a social life, it cannot be denied that there will definitely be conflicts between social groups, whether large or small conflicts related to race or religion. In fact, these conflicts could have been avoided if individuals realized that mutual respect and respect were very necessary. Moreover, every Indonesian citizen is obliged to protect each other's rights and obligations, which as far as possible does not need to cause division. The following are some of the roles of Tasamuf in maintaining national unity and unity.

First, in Islamic teachings, which have the main guidance in the form of the Al-Qur'an and Hadith, it is taught that differences between individuals are human nature which must be recognized and respected. Islam recognizes that humans have varying levels of understanding, perception and intelligence. Therefore, in understanding the concept of tasamuh, Islam encourages its followers to understand that differences are something natural and not something that should be debated or forced. Islam emphasizes the importance of mutual respect in dealing with differences. In the Qur'an, the teachings of humility, patience and understanding differences are clearly promoted. This underscores the importance of having an inclusive view of others, regardless of differences in views or beliefs.

Islam also emphasizes the importance of constructive dialogue in overcoming differences. In the Hadith, the Prophet Muhammad SAW exemplified an attitude of tolerance and wisdom in dealing with differences by communicating wisely and opening space for open dialogue. This reflects the

importance of listening to and understanding other people's points of view, before expressing personal views . In daily practice, Islam encourages its followers to show an attitude of empathy and compassion towards individuals who are different. Helping others, showing patience, and respecting diversity are principles emphasized in Islamic teachings. This reflects an understanding that differences are not an obstacle, but instead an opportunity to broaden perspectives and enrich shared experiences. Thus, Islamic teachings consistently teach the importance of respect for differences, as well as the importance of open communication and compassion in dealing with differences. This understanding forms a strong basis for the true practice of *tasamuh*, which in turn can strengthen unity, harmony and diversity in society.

Second, science is considered an important key in responding to various situations and conditions, including practicing tolerance. The higher a person's level of knowledge, the more likely they are to understand differences and be more open to diverse views and beliefs. With in-depth knowledge, a person tends to develop a broader and more complex perspective, which ultimately helps them to avoid a narrow or prejudicial attitude towards different things.

Deep knowledge provides a solid foundation for someone to recognize and appreciate diversity in its various forms. With a deep understanding of cultural, religious and social differences, a person will be more inclined to accept and appreciate diversity as something that enriches life and society. Science teaches the ability to analyze phenomena from various points of view. With mature analytical skills, someone can understand the background of an event or views from various perspectives, thereby preventing them from taking a narrow view or being trapped in a shallow understanding.

Broad knowledge helps a person to develop a healthy critical attitude towards the information obtained. With the skills to filter information and evaluate objectively, individuals tend to be more open to different views and thoughts, thereby reducing the tendency to make unfair judgments or judgments against other people. Thus, a high level of knowledge is often directly proportional to a person's ability to respond to differences with a high level of tolerance. Science not only opens minds, but also helps individuals to grow awareness of diversity and equips them with the skills to appreciate and respect differences in an increasingly complex and diverse society.

Third , resolving differences in Islamic teachings rests on the foundation of noble morals, open-mindedness, and good communication or dialogue. Since the beginning of Islamic history, the Prophet Muhammad SAW has emphasized the importance of having noble morals, such as honesty, justice and compassion, as a basis for resolving conflicts and differences between people. The Prophet Muhammad SAW also exemplified the importance of open-mindedness, by listening to and considering opinions and input from various groups, including non-Muslims.

At that time, Islam had established solid guidelines in the form of the teachings of the Qur'an and Hadith, which underscored the importance of harmonious cooperation between Muslims. These teachings emphasize the need to help each other, cooperate and support each other in building a strong and empowered society. Apart from that, Islam also emphasizes the obligation to respect and love each other among human beings, regardless of differences in religion, ethnicity or background.

In the current context, these principles are still relevant and valid, because they form a strong basis for harmonious and tolerant relations between religious communities. By prioritizing noble morals, open-mindedness and good communication, people can resolve differences with maturity and build relationships of mutual respect, appreciation and affection for each other. This is the essence of strong social harmony, which is the main goal in building a just and just society.

By implementing these three aspects, namely the foundation of noble morals, open-mindedness and good communication, national unity and unity can be maintained automatically. By respecting each other, people can avoid destructive conflicts and arguments. This will encourage the formation of a more advanced Indonesian society, without ignoring the fundamental values contained in the 1945 Constitution, Pancasila, and existing legislation. On the contrary, these principles will become a strong foundation for the nation's progress, while maintaining diversity and fostering close harmony in the midst of a diverse society. Thus, cooperation between individuals and diverse groups will be the

main key in realizing shared dreams towards an Indonesia that is prosperous and just for all its citizens.

4. CONCLUSION

The concept of tasamuh or tolerance in Islam has a very important role in building harmony, tolerance, and unity in the midst of diverse societies. By emphasizing the importance of respect, understanding and inclusive attitudes towards differences, Islamic teachings teach that all individuals must respect each other regardless of religion, ethnicity or other background. Deep knowledge and broad understanding of differences are also important factors in developing a high attitude of tolerance in society. Meanwhile, the principles of noble morals, open-mindedness and good communication are a strong basis for resolving differences with maturity, forming harmonious relationships and maintaining social harmony. By implementing these values, national unity and unity can be maintained, so that society can avoid destructive conflicts and can advance the nation towards prosperity and justice. In the context of Indonesia, which is a multicultural country, the application of the concept of tasamuh in everyday life will be an important key in ensuring that cultural and religious diversity does not become a source of dispute, but rather becomes a source of wealth and strength for the nation. Thus, the main conclusion is that the application of the concept of tasamuh in everyday life is an important foundation for building a harmonious, tolerant and integrated society.

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