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Moderate Islam: The Religious Foundation of the Muhammadiyah Movement in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Islam as a doctrine capable of addressing every aspect of the community's issues, will continue to evolve with the times. Muslims are expected to be critical and to have a moderate conceptual framework in interpreting religious texts. This approach will inevitably influence individual movements and religious practices. Muhammadiyah, as one of the largest social organizations in Indonesia, has a deeply rooted religious movement that extends down to the grassroots. This article discusses the concept of moderation as a religious foundation that underpins the Muhammadiyah Islamic Movement in Indonesia. The research method employed is a literature review of the thoughts and teachings embraced by the Muhammadiyah Movement. From this analysis, the article concludes that the religious foundation of the Muhammadiyah Movement includes moderate Islamic principles, an emphasis on education, inclusive da'wah, and social services. This conclusion provides a deeper understanding of the role of the Muhammadiyah Movement in shaping religious identity and its contributions to community development in Indonesia.

Keyword: Moderate Islam, Muhammadiyah,

Introduction

The Muhammadiyah movement in Indonesia began to take root amidst the socio-religious conditions prevailing in the Dutch East Indies in the early 20th century. During that time, the Indonesian Muslim community faced challenges from modernization and Dutch colonialism, which had brought significant changes to society and religious life. The establishment of Muhammadiyah in 1912 by Ahmad Dahlan was a response to the social and religious changes occurring at that time. This movement sought to revitalize Islam by emphasizing moderate education, social activities, and preaching. As a result of the Islamic revival spirit, Muhammadiyah became one of the largest Islamic movements in Indonesia.¹

Historical analysis reveals that Muhammadiyah emerged amidst rapid modernization and urbanization in the Dutch East Indies. Simultaneously, it emerged as an alternative to conservative Islamic traditions, emphasizing open-mindedness and inclusive education.

¹ Palahuddin Palahuddin, 'Modernisasi Pendidikan Islam Di Indonesia Awal Abad Ke-XX: Kasus Muhammadiyah', *SANGKEP: Jurnal Kajian Sosial Keagamaan*, 1.1 (2018), 61–83 <<https://doi.org/10.20414/sangkep.v1i1.606>>; Aphil Barroch Mahesa and others, 'Muhammadiyah Sebagai Gerakan Pembaharuan Pendidikan Islam', *JURNAL SOSIAL Jurnal Penelitian Ilmu-Ilmu Sosial*, 24.2 (2023), 68–74 <<https://doi.org/10.33319/sos.v24i2.133>>.

Muhammadiyah played a significant role in shaping the religious identity and intellectualism of Islam in Indonesia. By emphasizing moderate and inclusive values, this movement successfully attracted the attention of Muslims from various societal strata, including intellectuals and urban dwellers.²

Throughout its journey, Muhammadiyah has consistently contributed to the fields of education, social welfare, and Islamic preaching. This movement established modern schools, hospitals, and charitable institutions to serve the Indonesian society. Muhammadiyah also actively supported the struggle for Indonesian independence and became one of the pillars in the formation of the independent Indonesian state in 1945. The role of this movement in shaping Indonesian culture and national identity cannot be underestimated.³

Up to this day, Muhammadiyah remains one of the primary forces of moderate Islam in Indonesia. The movement continues to adapt to the changing times and adjust to new challenges in modern society. Through its educational and social approaches, Muhammadiyah persistently strives to advance both the Muslim community and the nation of Indonesia. Its sustained contributions to education and social welfare have established it as one of the leading Islamic organizations in Indonesia.⁴

Therefore, Muhammadiyah has a rich and influential history in the development of Islam in Indonesia. The historical analysis of this movement provides important insights into the development of moderate Islam and its contribution to shaping religious and humanitarian identity in Indonesia. Through its educational, social, and preaching efforts, Muhammadiyah continues to play a role in shaping tolerant and progressive Islamic values and character in Indonesia. The movement offers a model of Islam that is in line with the spirit of inclusivity, equality, and progress, which has a positive impact on the overall development of Indonesian society.

As a large and influential Islamic organization, Muhammadiyah is also actively involved in advocating for social justice, human rights, and peace at the local, national, and international levels. The movement upholds universal humanitarian values, reminding Muslims of their moral responsibility towards fellow human beings and the environment. In the political context, Muhammadiyah has played a significant role in shaping public policies and offering moderate and progressive Islamic perspectives. This movement is committed to realizing a just, democratic, and socially equitable state in accordance with the principles of Islam as a mercy to all creation.⁵

Despite facing challenges and controversies throughout its history, Muhammadiyah continues to adapt and evolve according to the demands of the times. The movement maintains its strong Islamic identity while remaining open to social dynamics and global

² Fathoni Khairil Mursyid, 'The History of Muhammadiyah', *Journal of Indonesian History*, 11.1 (2023), 27–32 <<https://doi.org/10.15294/jih.v11i1.63236>>; Nurholis, 'Sejarah Muhammadiyah Dan Pengaruhnya Terhadap Sosial Keagamaan Di Kota Bengkulu Tahun 2000 - 2015', 2020, 125.

³ Nurlaila Al Aydrus and others, 'Peran Muhammadiyah Dalam Upaya Pengembangan Pendidikan Islam Di Indonesia', *Iqra: Jurnal Ilmu Kependidikan Dan Keislaman*, 17.1 (2022), 17–25 <<https://doi.org/10.56338/iqra.v17i1.2174>>.

⁴ Zuly Qodir, 'Islam Berkemajuan Dan Strategi Dakwah Pencerahan Umat', *Jurnal Sosiologi Reflektif*, 13.2 (2019), 209 <<https://doi.org/10.14421/jsr.v13i12.1630>>; Biyanto Ali Ridho Syafi'i, 'Moderasi Beragama Muhammadiyah Dalam Risalah Islam Berkemajuan Perspektif Sosiologi Pengetahuan Karl Mannheim', *Journal of Ushuluddin and Islamic Thought*, 1.1 (2023), 1–23.

⁵ Marpuah Marpuah, 'Dinamika Organisasi Muhammadiyah Sebagai Gerakan Pembaharuan Di Provinsi Sumatera Barat', *Penamas*, 33.1 (2020), 113–32 <<https://doi.org/10.31330/penamas.v33i1.392>>; Rusli Latif, 'Eksistensi Ideologi Muhammadiyah Kepemimpinan', *Paradigma: Jurnal Kalam Dan Filsafat*, 2.01 (2020), 36–59 <<https://doi.org/10.15408/paradigma.v2i01.26630>>.

changes. As one of the largest Islamic organizations in Indonesia, Muhammadiyah has significant potential to continue playing a role as a positive agent of change in society. Through education, social services, and its preaching efforts, this movement continues to contribute to building a more civilized, prosperous, and just society in Indonesia.⁶

The development of society and changes over time often demand adjustments in religious practices. In the context of Islam, this creates a need for interpretations of teachings that remain relevant and inclusive of various social dynamics. The concept of "moderate Islam" emerges as a response to these challenges, emphasizing a flexible and tolerant understanding of religious teachings. Moderate Islam seeks to balance traditional principles with the demands of modernity, promoting mutual respect and tolerance within a multicultural society.

In Indonesia, Muhammadiyah, as one of the largest and most influential Islamic organizations, plays a central role in the application and dissemination of moderate Islamic principles. Founded in the early 20th century, Muhammadiyah has a mission to reform and renew religious and social practices in Indonesia, focusing on education, da'wah, and social services. The movement is committed to principles of Islam that emphasize moderation, rationality, and progress, and strives to address contemporary challenges faced by Muslims in Indonesia.

Despite the extensive research conducted on "moderate Islam" within the context of Muhammadiyah, there is still a need to delve deeper into the religious foundations underpinning this movement. This article aims to address this gap by exploring how moderate Islamic principles are applied in Muhammadiyah's thought and practice. By understanding Muhammadiyah's religious foundations and the application of moderate concepts in its movement, it is hoped that a clearer picture of Muhammadiyah's contribution to shaping a harmonious religious and social identity in Indonesia can be provided.

History and Development of The Muhammadiyah Islamic Movement

The History and Development of the Muhammadiyah Islamic Movement depict the long journey of this Islamic movement from its inception to its significant position in Indonesian society today. The Muhammadiyah Movement was founded in 1912 in Yogyakarta by KH Ahmad Dahlan in response to the socio-religious conditions prevailing in the Dutch East Indies at that time. During this period, Indonesian Muslim society faced challenges from modernization and Dutch colonialism, prompting the emergence of this movement as an alternative emphasizing the importance of education, preaching, and social service within the context of moderate Islam.⁷

The development of the Muhammadiyah Movement over more than a century has demonstrated its adaptability and resilience to various changes over time. This movement continues to renew itself and adapt to the demands of the times while maintaining its original vision and values. A profound understanding of the history and development of the Muhammadiyah Movement can be found through various writings and research by prominent figures and scholars.⁸

Malik Fadjar, provides profound insights into the development of Islamic education in Indonesia and the role of Muhammadiyah within it. Additionally, the writings of M. Dawam Rahardjo, such as in his book "From the Heart for Muhammadiyah" highlight the values and spirit of struggle underlying the Muhammadiyah Movement, as well as the roles

⁶ Imam Arifin, *Pembaharuan Pemikiran Islam Di Indonesia*, 2021.

⁷ Mursyid.

⁸ Nurholis.

of key figures in its history. Furthermore, analyses from figures like Clifford Geertz, a renowned anthropologist, in his article “Muhammadiyah: A Study of the Change in a Muslim Organization in Modern Indonesia”, also provide understanding of social and religious transformations in Indonesia and the role of Muhammadiyah within that context. Through in-depth and critical studies of the history and development of the Muhammadiyah Movement, researchers can gain a deeper understanding of its role and impact in the social and religious dynamics of Indonesia.⁹

In addition, academic writings from prominent Islamic scholars such as Ahmad Syafii Maarif also provide valuable perspectives on the role of the Muhammadiyah Movement in the development of Islam in Indonesia. In his works, Maarif often delves into the history and role of Muhammadiyah within the context of the Islamic revival in Indonesia and its relevance in providing alternative moderate Islamic thought. Besides analyses from renowned figures, direct research into historical documents and archives of the Muhammadiyah Movement is also a valuable source. Researchers can explore official archives, newspapers from the past, as well as conduct interviews with elders or key figures involved in the movement to gain more direct and profound perspectives.¹⁰

By combining historical approaches and textual analysis from various sources, researchers can weave together a rich and comprehensive narrative about the history and development of the Muhammadiyah Movement. This not only enriches understanding of the journey of the movement but also provides deeper insights into the religious, social, and political dynamics in Indonesia throughout history. Furthermore, understanding the history and development of the Muhammadiyah Movement is crucial for comprehending the context of contemporary Indonesian Muslim society. The movement has had a significant impact in shaping the religious and cultural identity of the society and has made meaningful contributions in various fields such as education, healthcare, and social welfare.¹¹

By understanding the history and development of the Muhammadiyah Movement, we can also recognize the challenges and opportunities faced by moderate Islamic movements in Indonesia. This provides a strong foundation for formulating strategies for the development of relevant knowledge and policies in building an inclusive, civilized, and just society in Indonesia. In this context, paying attention to the role of the Muhammadiyah Movement in contemporary Indonesian society is crucial. This movement not only plays a role as a religious organization but also has a significant impact in the social, political, and cultural realms. Through moderate Islamic education, the movement has contributed to shaping the noble character and broad-mindedness of Indonesia's younger generation.

Moreover, the Muhammadiyah Movement also plays a significant role in interreligious and intercultural dialogue in Indonesia. With its inclusive and tolerant approach, the movement promotes harmony among religious communities and acts as a bridge between Muslims and people of other beliefs. This is consistent with the values of justice and humanity embraced by the movement since its inception. However, despite experiencing significant development, the Muhammadiyah Movement also faces various challenges in the contemporary era. Social changes, global influences, and political dynamics can affect the direction and vision of this movement. Therefore, understanding

⁹ Muhammad Sirajuddin Syamsuddin, *Islam in Indonesia: Modernism, Radicalism, and Democracy* (Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2012).

¹⁰ Mahesa and others.

¹¹ Qodir.

the history and development of the Muhammadiyah Movement is a crucial foundation for addressing challenges and optimizing its potential in the context of the present and future¹².

Thus, in-depth research and analysis of the history and role of the Muhammadiyah Movement not only provide insights into the journey of the movement but also offer a more comprehensive view of the dynamics of society and religious life in Indonesia. This is important in formulating relevant strategies and policies to advance an inclusive, civilized, and just society in Indonesia. Continuing to understand the role of the Muhammadiyah Movement, it is also important to observe its role in addressing various contemporary issues. The Muhammadiyah Movement has been active in advocating views related to issues such as education, health, economy, and the environment. The movement is also involved in promoting social justice, human rights, and peace at the local, national, and international levels¹³.

In the context of education, for instance, Muhammadiyah continues to play a role as a provider of comprehensive educational services, from primary to tertiary levels, covering thousands of schools and educational institutions across Indonesia. Additionally, the movement also strives to drive innovation in curriculum and teaching methods to enhance the quality of education and prepare the younger generation to face future challenges. In the field of healthcare, Muhammadiyah also holds a significant role through its network of hospitals, health centers, and community health programs spread across various regions. The movement is actively involved in disease prevention efforts, public health services, and advocacy for more equitable access to healthcare for all layers of society. In the context of environmental conservation, Muhammadiyah also plays a role in raising awareness and taking action for environmental preservation. The movement advocates for the use of renewable energy, sustainable farming practices, and protection of critical natural resources essential for human survival.¹⁴

Through various initiatives and activities, Muhammadiyah continues to demonstrate a relevant and proactive role in advancing community welfare and building a better Indonesia. By understanding the participation and contributions of this movement in various fields, we can appreciate the values of diversity, justice, and progress that are the fundamental principles of the Muhammadiyah Movement in shaping an inclusive and just society.

Religious Foundations in The Moderate Perspective of Muhammadiyah

Muhammadiyah has articulated the values, principles, and religious views that form the basis of its thought and teachings within the Movement. This movement emphasizes the importance of moderate Islamic understanding as the foundation of all its activities. Moderate Islamic understanding highlights tolerance, peace, and inclusivity, which serve as the foundation for diversity and harmony within society. Muhammadiyah views religion as a source of inspiration to do good and benefit others¹⁵.

Furthermore, education is one of the main pillars in Muhammadiyah's teachings. The movement advocates for quality and equitable education for all layers of society, believing that education is the key to building individuals with noble character, extensive knowledge,

¹² Hasse Jubba, Jaffary Awang, and Siti Aisyah Sungkilang, 'The Challenges of Islamic Organizations in Promoting Moderation in Indonesia', *Wawasan: Jurnal Ilmiah Agama Dan Sosial Budaya*, 6.1 (2021), 43–54 <<https://doi.org/10.15575/jw.v6i1.12948>>.

¹³ Edi Susanto and Karimullah Karimullah, 'Islam Nusantara: Islam Khas Dan Akomodatif Terhadap Budaya Lokal', *Al-Ulum*, 16.1 (2017), 56 <<https://doi.org/10.30603/au.v16i1.27>>.

¹⁴ Qodir.

¹⁵ Nurholis.

and positive contributions to society. Education in the view of Muhammadiyah is not limited to academic aspects but also includes the formation of strong character and morals in accordance with Islamic teachings¹⁶.

Additionally, preaching (dakwah) is also an important aspect in Muhammadiyah's religious perspective. The movement considers preaching as the primary responsibility of Muslims to convey the message of Islam in a wise, persuasive, and contextually relevant manner. Dakwah in Muhammadiyah is aimed at creating a better understanding of Islam and promoting the values of justice, equality, and compassion. Social service is also an integral part of Muhammadiyah's teachings. The movement emphasizes the importance of helping others and caring for the welfare of humanity as a whole. Through various social programs, such as orphanages, hospitals, and assistance for the less fortunate, Muhammadiyah strives to uphold the principles of solidarity and social justice taught by Islam¹⁷.

Thus, this theme portrays Muhammadiyah's commitment to moderate Islamic values, quality education, wise preaching, and caring social service. A deep understanding of the religious foundation in Muhammadiyah's perspective provides broad insights into the principles underlying this movement and its implications in building an inclusive, civilized, and just society.¹⁸

Opinions from experts and figures regarding the religious foundation in the perspective of Muhammadiyah can provide a deeper understanding of the relevance and significance of the values embraced by this movement in the social and religious contexts. For example, Azyumardi Azra, an expert in Indonesian Islamic history, states that Muhammadiyah plays a significant role in shaping moderate religious thought in Indonesia. According to him, the moderate Islamic approach adopted by Muhammadiyah serves as a relevant model for maintaining harmony among religious communities in Indonesia.¹⁹

Meanwhile, Ahmad Mustofa Bisri, affectionately known as Gus Mus, a Muslim scholar and intellectual in Indonesia, emphasizes the importance of education in Muhammadiyah's teachings. For him, Muhammadiyah has succeeded in making significant contributions to providing equitable access to education for all segments of society, especially in remote rural areas.²⁰ Another opinion comes from Quraish Shihab, a renowned Muslim scholar and expert in Quranic exegesis. He highlights the importance of wise preaching (dakwah) in Muhammadiyah's teachings. According to him, Muhammadiyah's approach to preaching has succeeded in creating a more inclusive and tolerant understanding of Islam, both among Muslims and non-Muslims.²¹

Not to be overlooked, Siti Musdah Mulia appreciates Muhammadiyah's efforts in social services. According to her, the social services provided by Muhammadiyah not only

¹⁶ Palahuddin.

¹⁷ Adi Nur Rohman, 'Hukum Islam Dan Perubahan Sosial: Dinamisasi Perkembangan Metode Ijtihad Muhammadiyah', *Syaksia: Jurnal Hukum Perdata Islam*, 22.1 (2021), 85–98 <<https://doi.org/10.37035/syaksia.v22i1.4877>>.

¹⁸ Riska Aprillianti, Dayang Safira Bella Avilia, and Romelah Romelah, 'The Role of Muhammadiyah Islamic Movement in Hacking a New Map of Local Culture in Indonesia', *Audito Comparative Law Journal (ACLJ)*, 3.1 (2022), 10–17 <<https://doi.org/10.22219/aclj.v3i1.19857>>.

¹⁹ Azyumardi Azra, *Ensiklopedi Tematis Dunia Islam, Asia Tenggara* (Jakarta: Ikhtiar Baru Van Hoeve, 2002); Azyumardi Azra, *Muhammadiyah: Pergolakan Modern Islam Di Indonesia* (Yogyakarta: Penerbit Pustaka Pelajar, 2004).

²⁰ Mustofa Bisri, *Agama, Masyarakat, Dan Keadilan: Sebuah Wacana Gus Mus* (Yogyakarta: Penerbit Bentang, 2011).

²¹ Quraish Shihab, *Wawasan Al-Qur'an: Tafsir Maudhu'i Atas Pelbagai Persoalan Umat* (Jakarta: Lentera Hati, 2007).

help individuals physically but also build social concern and solidarity among communities. From the opinions of these experts and figures, it can be concluded that the religious foundation in Muhammadiyah's perspective holds significant relevance in the social, religious, and humanitarian contexts. The values embraced by this movement, such as moderate Islam, education, wise preaching, and social services, not only reflect the essence of inclusive Islamic teachings but also make tangible contributions to building a cultured, just, and harmonious society.²²

In this context, Khoiruddin Nasution highlights Muhammadiyah's role in promoting Islam based on humanitarian values. According to him, Muhammadiyah not only advocates for formal religious aspects but also prioritizes moral values and ethics reflected in social services and serving others. Additionally, Din Syamsuddin, former Chairman of Muhammadiyah, emphasizes the importance of an inclusive approach in the preaching carried out by this movement. According to him, Muhammadiyah's preaching should be able to create dialogue and cooperation among different religious communities and be educative in dealing with differences and social conflicts.²³

From an academic perspective, Ahmad Najib Burhani emphasizes that the moderate Islamic values embraced by Muhammadiyah have great potential to serve as an alternative model in responding to religious radicalism and extremism in Indonesia. According to him, an inclusive, tolerant approach based on interfaith understanding can be an effective solution in building a harmonious and peaceful society. From various perspectives of experts and figures, we can see that the religious foundation in Muhammadiyah's viewpoint is not only relevant in the context of the religious life of Muslims, but also has broader implications in building an inclusive, tolerant, and just society. Values such as moderate Islam, education, wise preaching, and social services are not only guiding principles in the activities of this movement but also make a significant contribution to shaping the character and religious identity of the Indonesian nation.²⁴

In facing the evolving dynamics of the times, Muhammadiyah continues to strive to remain relevant and adaptive to new challenges. This is reflected in the movement's efforts to strengthen its social networks and institutions, including through the utilization of technology and social media to disseminate messages of moderate and inclusive preaching. In this regard, Azyumardi Azra also highlights the importance of Muhammadiyah in wisely confronting the digital era, using technology as a means to convey beneficial religious messages and prioritize humanitarian values.²⁵

Furthermore, young figures within Muhammadiyah also play a significant role in formulating the agenda and strategies of the movement for the future. They represent a dynamic and innovative generation, bringing new spirit to embody the teachings and principles of this movement in line with the demands of the times. The fresh ideas from the youth in Muhammadiyah bring hope for sustaining the relevance of this movement in facing various future challenges. Thus, the religious foundation in Muhammadiyah's perspective is not merely a collection of inherited values and principles from the past, but also a dynamic and adaptive basis in responding to the development of the times. Through innovative, collaborative, and inclusive efforts, Muhammadiyah continues to strengthen its

²² Siti Musdah Mulia, *Pemberdayaan Perempuan Dalam Islam* (Jakarta: Penerbit LKiS, 2008).

²³ Khairuddin Nasution, *Gerakan Islam: Analisis Sosial-Politik Azyumardi Azra* (Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2013).

²⁴ Ahmad Najib Burhani, 'Muhammadiyah Dan Pendidikan Di Indonesia: Sebuah Perspektif Historis', *Jurnal Pendidikan Islam*, 7.2 (2019), 225–40.

²⁵ Azyumardi Azra, *Muhammadiyah: Pergolakan Modern Islam Di Indonesia*.

role and contribution in building a society based on religious, humanitarian, and just values.²⁶

Facing increasingly complex challenges in the era of globalization, Muhammadiyah is also enhancing its role and contribution in international forums. This movement not only serves as a representation of moderate Islam from Indonesia but also participates in interfaith dialogue and cross-cultural cooperation to promote peace, tolerance, and global justice. Muhammadiyah leaders, both at the local and national levels, actively engage in various international activities aimed at advocating for human rights, environmental preservation, and the overall welfare of humanity. The inclusive and collaborative approach applied by Muhammadiyah nationally is also implemented internationally, where this movement seeks to be an agent of peace and goodness for the world.²⁷

Thus, the religious perspective of Muhammadiyah is not only local or national but also has significant global dimensions. Through active participation in international forums, Muhammadiyah strengthens the image of moderate Islam, contributes to promoting harmony among religious communities, and advocates for universal humanitarian values. Therefore, Muhammadiyah is not only a force that strengthens the identity of Indonesian Muslims but also a part of the solution in building peace and justice at the global level.²⁸

The Contribution of Muhammadiyah as a Moderate Islamic Movement

Muhammadiyah's contribution to Indonesian society and religion is a significant phenomenon in the country's historical and religious development. When unraveling this contribution, it's essential to consider the impact it has had on various aspects of community life. Muhammadiyah has made substantial contributions to shaping the religious identity of Indonesian society. Through its moderate Islamic approach, Muhammadiyah has become a key pillar in advocating for an inclusive and tolerant understanding of Islam amidst a diverse society.²⁹

Muhammadiyah is also actively involved in social and humanitarian services through various programs aimed at improving community welfare. According to Siti Musdah Mulia, "Muhammadiyah's role in social services reflects its commitment to principles of social justice and humanity. Through its hospitals, clinics, and social assistance programs, Muhammadiyah makes tangible contributions to communities in need." These programs encompass not only healthcare services but also educational and economic aid for underprivileged families, reflecting the organization's strong values of social justice³⁰.

²⁶ Agus Ahmad Safei, 'Promoting Moderate Islam in a Global Community through the "English for Ulama" Programme', *HTS Teologiese Studies / Theological Studies*, 77.4 (2021), 1–8 <<https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v77i4.6878>>.

²⁷ Jubba, Awang, and Sungkilang.

²⁸ Yahya Fathur Rozy, 'From Feeling Threatened to Conservative Turn : Challenges toward Promoting Moderate Islam through New Media', *TAJIDID: Majalah Ilmu Pengetahuan Dan Pemikiran Keagamaan*, 26.1 (2013), 45–59 <<http://ejournal.uinib.ac.id/jurnal/index.php/tajdid/article/view/6207%0Ahttps://ejournal.uinib.ac.id/jurnal/index.php/tajdid/article/download/6207/3369>>.

²⁹ Syamsul Arifin and Nafik Muthohirin, 'The Viewpoint of The Young Muhammadiyah Intellectuals towards The Religious Minority Groups in Indonesia', *TEOSOFI: Jurnal Tasawuf Dan Pemikiran Islam*, 9.2 (2019), 282–305 <<https://doi.org/10.15642/teosofi.2019.9.2.282-305>>.

³⁰ Wagma Isaqzoy, 'The Contributions of Muslim Faith-Based Organizations to Development: The Case of Muhammadiyah in Indonesia', *Saint Mary's University*, 2013 <https://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/fileadmin/files/BSt/Publikationen/GrauePublikationen/MT_Globalization_Report_2018.pdf%0Ahttp://eprints.lse.ac.uk/43447/1/India_globalisation%2C_society_and_inequalities%28Isero%29.pdf%0Ahttps://www.quora.com/What-is-the>.

In the economic sector, Muhammadiyah is engaged in entrepreneurship empowerment by supporting the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Haedar Nashir states, "Economic empowerment is one of Muhammadiyah's main focuses to reduce poverty and improve community welfare. Our entrepreneurship programs aim to provide training and capital to new entrepreneurs so they can contribute to local economic growth." This support helps in poverty reduction and improving the quality of life for many³¹.

Regarding interfaith and intercultural dialogue, Muhammadiyah plays an active facilitative role. Abdul Mu'ti remarks, "Interfaith and intercultural dialogue are crucial parts of Muhammadiyah's efforts to build a harmonious society. We believe that understanding differences and collaborating with various groups can strengthen social harmony." Through seminars, conferences, and interfaith meetings, Muhammadiyah contributes to enhancing tolerance and cooperation among diverse groups³².

Muhammadiyah is also involved in social and legal reforms, striving to influence public policy to be more just and inclusive. Azyumardi Azra notes, "Muhammadiyah plays a significant role in advocating for social reform. By providing recommendations and feedback on government policies, Muhammadiyah seeks to ensure that these policies reflect principles of justice and public welfare." This advocacy covers various aspects of social and legal life, including human rights and social justice³³.

Additionally, Muhammadiyah contributes to infrastructure development and environmental protection. Ahmad Azhar Basyir explains, "Infrastructure development and environmental conservation are part of Muhammadiyah's social responsibility. We believe that community welfare and environmental sustainability are interconnected." Through development projects and environmental programs, Muhammadiyah aims to enhance the quality of life while preserving natural resources³⁴.

However, Muhammadiyah faces various challenges in the contemporary era, including pressure from extremist groups and political dynamics. Haedar Nashir points out, "In facing these challenges, Muhammadiyah must continue to reinforce its commitment to moderation and adapt to changing times. It is crucial to strengthen organizational capacity and adjust strategies to remain effective and relevant." This effort involves improving internal capacity, strengthening social networks, and adjusting missionary strategies and social programs to address contemporary issues³⁵.

Overall, Muhammadiyah as a moderate Islamic movement continues to make significant contributions to various aspects of Indonesian society, including education, missionary work, social services, economic empowerment, interfaith dialogue, social reform, infrastructure development, and environmental protection. With its inclusive and adaptive approach, Muhammadiyah is committed to advancing Indonesian society toward a better and more harmonious future.

From the perspectives of these experts and figures, we can see that Muhammadiyah's contribution to society and religion in Indonesia is extensive and diverse. Through various efforts in education, social services, advocacy for justice, and wise preaching, Muhammadiyah continues to be a force for positive impact in strengthening the nation's identity and advancing the welfare of the people. By understanding and appreciating these

³¹ Latif.

³² Qodir.

³³ Ali Ridho Syafi'i.

³⁴ Mahesa and others.

³⁵ Marpuah.

contributions, we can collectively work towards building a better Indonesia based on religious, humanitarian, and just values.³⁶

According to Siti Musdah Mulia, she highlights Muhammadiyah's role in advocating for gender equality and providing greater opportunities for women's participation in various aspects of life, including education, social, and economic fields. Through empowerment programs for women and raising awareness about the importance of gender equality, Muhammadiyah has paved the way for women to actualize their potential and significantly contribute to community development. Furthermore, it is important to consider the viewpoint of Syafii Maarif, an Indonesian Muslim intellectual known for his progressive thinking. He emphasizes that Muhammadiyah has a strategic role in building a civilized, intelligent, and just society. Through an inclusive and critical approach to various social and political issues, Muhammadiyah has become an important voice in advocating for humanitarian values and justice in Indonesia.³⁷

From various perspectives of scholars and figures, it can be concluded that Muhammadiyah's contribution to society and religion in Indonesia is vast and diverse. From efforts to shape a moderate religious identity, advance education, provide social services, to advocate for justice and gender equality, Muhammadiyah continues to be a force that enriches and strengthens religious and social life in Indonesia. By understanding and acknowledging these contributions, we can better appreciate Muhammadiyah's role in building an inclusive, civilized, and just society.

Conclusion

From the discussion, it can be concluded that Muhammadiyah is not only a religious movement but also an agent of change that plays a role in shaping the religious identity of Indonesian society. The moderate Islamic approach embraced by Muhammadiyah has had a positive impact on strengthening tolerance among religious communities and promoting peace within society. Muhammadiyah has made a highly significant contribution to both society and religion in Indonesia. As a moderate Islamic movement deeply rooted in religious and humanitarian values, Muhammadiyah has shaped an inclusive and tolerant religious identity amidst diverse communities. Through efforts in education, social services, advocacy for justice, and wise preaching, Muhammadiyah continues to enrich religious and social life in Indonesia. Furthermore, Muhammadiyah's role in advancing education, social services, and advocacy for social justice is also an integral part of the religious foundation of this movement. Through these efforts, Muhammadiyah continues to contribute to building a more civilized, just, and prosperous society. Thus, understanding the religious foundation of the Muhammadiyah Islamic Movement is important for Indonesian society to appreciate its contribution to strengthening religious, humanitarian, and justice values in Indonesia.[]

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