Social Communication in Maintaining Religious Tolerance
Juntikebon Village Government, Juntinyuat Subdistrict

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Abstract:
This research aims to investigate the social communication conducted by the Juntikebon Village Government in Juntinyuat Sub-District in Maintaining Religious Tolerance. The research utilizes a descriptive qualitative research method, employing data collection techniques such as observation and interviews. The data excavation in this research utilizes interview techniques, with the interviewed parties including, Secretary of Juntikebon Village and Head of Juntikebon Village. The theories employed in data excavation are social communication theory and tolerance theory. Based on the research findings, the social communication conducted by the Juntikebon Village government in implementing the value of religious tolerance shows that there is social communication established between the community and the government. It can be concluded that the social communication of the Juntikebon Village government in Maintaining Harmony of Religious Tolerance in Juntikebon Village, Juntinyuat Sub-District, becomes one of the significant values for community life, contributing to building the village regardless of social strata or religion, as religion is the right and obligation of every individual. Hence, there is no business for the government, as stated in the 1945 Constitution and Pancasila. Thus, the village community and the government do not discriminate between Islam and Christianity.

Keywords: Social Communication, Tolerance, Juntikebon Village Government.

Introduction
As time progresses, the issue of tolerance seems to pose a threat to society, evident over the years as differences undermine the sovereignty of Indonesia. It serves as a gauge for communication experts, highlighting the importance of respecting the cultures and religions of others. This has led the heroes to adopt the motto "Bhinneka Tunggal Ika" in Indonesia. The development of tolerance values within society is formed through continuous social relationships, intertwining religious, cultural, and harmonious interactions. This results in a region where tolerance is deeply ingrained, passed down through generations despite differences in opinions. In 2016, incidents like the burning of places of worship occurred due to communication errors within society. When such gaps persist, they threaten religious harmony, emphasizing the importance of tolerance for every individual; high levels of tolerance foster harmony amid religious and cultural diversity. One form of tolerance inherent in Indonesian society arises from job
advertisements specifying the same religion as a requirement, causing division and promoting discriminatory values. However, some company owners withdrew such requirements in certain areas, seeing them as intolerant of religious differences. *(Firdaus, 2016)*

These events highlight the strong religious tolerance in Indonesia, emphasizing that everyone has the right to practice their religion without discrimination hindering job opportunities. *(Alex Arifianto, 2021)* Social exchange is a mutually influential relationship beneficial to society. Social and cultural exchanges, viewing tolerance as a unifying force amidst diversity, are evident in the activities of Juntikebon Village. Differences do not impede social activities; instead, they involve all community members, averting conflicts. The growing issue of diminishing tolerance poses a threat to national unity, but upholding unity prevents its occurrence. In Juntikebon Village, both Muslims and Christians actively participate in religious events, showcasing harmony and government involvement in promoting tolerance by incorporating both communities into governance. The coexistence of a mosque and a church signifies a history of social exchange and tolerance in maintaining peace in Juntikebon Village. Individual behavior is reciprocally continuous. According to Johnson, social exchange is a human behavior that establishes mutually beneficial laws for others. Based on this research background, the researcher is interested in studying Social Communication in maintaining Religious Tolerance in the Juntikebon Village Government, Juntinyuat District.

Problem Statement: Based on the background outlined, the issues in this research are as follows: 1. How is social communication within the Juntikebon Village Government?, 2. What are the tolerance values within the Juntikebon Village Government to promote religious harmony among the community? Research Objectives and Benefits:

Research objectives and benefits are essential elements in designing a study. The objectives and benefits of this research are as follows: Research Objectives: Based on the problem statement formulated by the researcher, the research objectives are formulated to determine the following: a. Social communication utilized in the Juntikebon government and the media used in social exchanges, as well as the attitude of tolerance in maintaining harmony among religious communities in Juntikebon Village, Juntinyuat District, Indramayu Regency. b. To understand the tolerance values within the Juntikebon Village government in promoting religious harmony.

Methods

The research, based on scholarly theories, aims to uncover data through observation and interviews to address doubts in obtaining research data.

1. Research Type:

This study employs a descriptive qualitative method, focusing on the characteristics of everyday life in society and deepening observations to discover social phenomena within the research objects and subjects. Qualitative research involves an analysis procedure based on the researcher’s efforts to define the research findings in the field.

2. Data Sources:
a. Primary Data Sources: Primary data sources involve information collected directly from the research site, without intermediaries, such as interviews with informants and researchers. These may result from observation or interview methods. (Syahza, 2021) The study's primary data sources include three elements:

b. Secondary Data Sources: Secondary data refers to written materials, such as books, magazines, and scientific data, or research archives found within the community. Secondary data complements primary data, aiding in the research. (Husaini, 2017) Secondary data supplements the study, allowing researchers to explore history, documents, and archives related to the research object concerning Social Exchange and Tolerance in Maintaining Harmony Between Muslims and Christians in Juntikebon Village, Juntinyuat District, Indramayu Regency.

Data Collection Techniques:

a. Interviews:

Interviews serve as a data collection technique where researchers initiate discussions to uncover research issues. This technique relies on reports from research object informants. Researchers using this technique must understand the interviewees' characteristics and essential data related to the research object. (J. Moeleong, Prof, Dr, 2007) The interviewees include: 1) The Juntikebon Village Government, represented by a leader overseeing the village. 2) Government officials interviewed by the researcher include: a) The Head of Juntikebon Village, representing the Islamic community as the village head. b) The Village Secretary, representing the Christian community as an adherent of Christianity.

b. Observation:

Observation is a technique for systematically observing and recording phenomena conducted by the researcher. It aims to determine the research object's relation to the subject. Observational research helps explain and detail developing phenomena within the research object. Researchers use observation to study the social structure of the community, classify research involvement, and ensure valid data collection. (Sangadji Mamang Etta, 2010).

c. Documentation:

Documentation serves as a supplementary data source. Researchers must recognize its importance in enhancing data analysis. Documentation complements observation and interview techniques, compensating for any inaccuracies. Essential field data, such as photos, videos, and historical archives, are used in qualitative research. Documentation serves as a comprehensive record of qualitative research data. (J. Moeleong, Prof, Dr, 2007).

Results

Understanding Tolerance

Tolerance entails accepting or respecting differences arising from others’ uniqueness. It can also be defined as honesty in confronting life with differing ideologies, providing an opportunity to build relationships. Religion often becomes a racial issue in
the application of tolerance within a country or region. Consequently, religious differences frequently lead to feelings of disunity and become divisive issues within nations (Casram, 2016).
a. Application of Tolerance towards Religious Differences

When considering the value of tolerance, one becomes capable of adapting to differences, as experienced by every Indonesian citizen. Indonesia's national ideology itself has a unique motto that is deeply ingrained in the majority of the population. (Rusydi and Zolehah, 2018) This value is also fostered through subjects, courses, or religious studies. Allah’s word in the Quran, Surah Al-Kafirun, verse 5, states: "To you be your religion, and to me be mine." (Q.s Al-Kafirun verse 6)

This emphasizes mutual tolerance among Muslims, meaning that when differences do not cause problems, we must be able to preserve those differences, refraining from fighting or mocking others due to their dissimilarities.

Social Communication

Definition of Social Communication

Social communication is a means to build cohesion or a sense of togetherness within a community. Through social communication, various gaps can be negotiated, discussed, and civilized solutions can be sought. The process of social communication requires mutual understanding from both parties so that the communication process runs smoothly and effectively. Social communication plays an important role in human life. With communication, the natural human tendency as social beings can be fulfilled. Two people are said to be interacting when each performs actions and reactions. (Putra, 2018)

In a diverse society like that found in Juntikebon Village, Juntinyuat District, tolerance among religious communities is a key value. Consequently, they will inevitably engage in both verbal and nonverbal communication, including intercultural, interfaith, and ritual communication, which, in categorization, falls under nonverbal communication as well as social communication (Wisri, 2013).

To explore the research data, researchers conducted interviews with the Juntikebon Village Secretary and Juntikebon Village Subdistrict.

1. Deputy Village Head of Juntikebon Village

What is the role of social communication in strengthening the relationship between the community and the Village Government of Juntikebon? “Social communication plays a crucial role in strengthening the relationship between the community and the Village Government of Juntikebon. By communicating openly and transparently, the village government can better understand the needs and aspirations of the community, while the community feels heard and included in the decision-making process.” How are the efforts of the Juntikebon Village Government in creating harmony and tolerance within the Government? The Juntikebon Village Government is active in promoting harmony and tolerance within its government in various ways, Hold regular meetings involving religious and community leaders to dialogue and solve problems together, Implement non-discriminatory policies in all aspects of public services and government activities. Organize interfaith events to celebrate differences and strengthen people-to-people relations. Organizing training on harmony be.

How does the Government’s role shape the value of tolerance in Juntikebon Village? ” The role of the Juntikiedokan Village Government in shaping the value of tolerance is very important. Some of the efforts made include. Set a positive example:
Village governments are role models in practicing tolerance and respect for differences between individuals and groups. Encourage interfaith dialogue: Village governments hold interfaith dialogue meetings and forums to build understanding and overcome differences, Organizing joint events: Village governments organize activities. How does the community of Juntikebon Village respond to the efforts of the Village Government in promoting the value of tolerance? “Generally, the community of Juntikebon Village responds positively to the efforts of the Village Government in promoting the value of tolerance. They engage in activities organized by the village government and demonstrate openness to dialogue and collaboration with fellow residents, regardless of religious or belief differences.” How is the social communication between the community of Juntikebon Village and the Juntikebon Village Government?

“The social communication between the community of Juntikebon Village and the Juntikebon Village Government is relatively intensive and diverse. The community can communicate with the village government through general meetings, community forums, as well as through official channels such as the village office and correspondence.”

2. Resource Person: Head of Juntikebon Village

How does the Government play a role in shaping the value of tolerance in Juntikedokan Village? The Juntikebon Village Government, comprising members of the government such as Muslims and Christians together, collaboratively builds Juntikebon Village effectively.

This is achieved by making Juntikebon Village a platform for fostering tolerance. During Christmas time, for instance, Muslims respect and do not disturb the celebration, even allowing parking in the mosque’s courtyard, and vice versa. The government officials include not only Christians but also Muslims. What has the Juntikebon Village Government done to build social communication with the Muslim and Christian communities in Juntikebon Village? The Juntikebon Village Government has adopted a series of steps to foster inclusive social communication with the Muslim and Christian communities in the village. Concrete steps taken include: establishment of interfaith dialogue forums: The village government has established interfaith dialogue forums aimed at facilitating open dialogue among religious leaders, community figures, and residents from various religious backgrounds. These forums provide a space for exchange of opinions, better understanding of each other’s beliefs, and collaborative problem-solving. Organization of joint events: The village government regularly organizes joint events involving Muslim and Christian communities, such as religious activities, celebrations of religious holidays, and social community activities. This aims to strengthen relations among religious communities and promote cooperation among village residents regardless of religious background.

Mobilization of support for joint projects: The village government also mobilizes support from Muslim and Christian communities for village development projects beneficial to all residents. In the planning and implementation process of these projects, they ensure active participation from all parties without discrimination based on religion. By adopting these measures, the Juntikebon Village Government strives to build positive and inclusive social communication between Muslim and Christian communities, and create a harmonious and peaceful environment in their village.”

How does the Juntikebon Village Government strive to promote harmony and tolerance within its governance framework? “The Juntikebon Village Government
undertakes various concrete efforts to foster harmony and tolerance within its governance framework. Some of these efforts include: “Encouraging interfaith dialogue and collaboration. Organizing joint activities among various religious groups.” Conducting training on tolerance and religious harmony for government employees. Facilitating open discussion forums to peacefully resolve differences. Implementing inclusive policies in decision-making and public services.

Why is the value of tolerance important in the relationship between the community and the Juntikebon Village Government? “Tolerance is the foundation for harmonious relations between the community and the government. Without tolerance, conflicts can quickly escalate and affect social and political stability. In this context, tolerance enables the community and the government to appreciate each other’s differences in opinions, beliefs, and cultures without jeopardizing stability or security. It fosters constructive dialogue and effective problem-solving in the decision-making process. Thus, the value of tolerance not only promotes social inclusion but also enhances the legitimacy and effectiveness of governance.” What concrete steps has the Juntikebon Village Government taken to enhance social communication with its residents? “The Juntikebon Village Government has taken measures such as holding regular meetings with residents, establishing information centers in strategic locations, and utilizing social media and information technology to disseminate up-to-date information to the community. Additionally, they also encourage active participation of the community in policy-making and village development programs through open discussions and public consultations.”

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**Figure 1. Documentation with the Deputy Village Head of Juntikebon**

**Figure 2. Documentation with the Head of Juntikebon Village**

**Conclusion**
The social communication carried out by the Juntikebon Village Government involves establishing public spaces between the community and the administration. Social communication plays a crucial role in strengthening the relationship between the community and the Juntikebon Village Government. By communicating openly and transparently, the village government can better understand the needs and aspirations of the community, while the community feels heard and included in the decision-making process. The Juntikebon Village Government has adopted a series of measures to build inclusive social communication with both Muslim and Christian communities in the village. Concrete steps taken include: Formation of interfaith dialogue forums: The village government has established interfaith dialogue forums aimed at facilitating open dialogue among religious leaders, community figures, and residents from various religious backgrounds. This forum provides space for exchanging opinions, better understanding each other's beliefs, and solving problems together.

Organizing joint events: The village government regularly organizes joint events involving both Muslim and Christian communities, such as religious activities, celebrations of religious holidays, and community social activities. This is aimed at strengthening interfaith relations and promoting cooperation among village residents regardless of religious background. Mobilizing support for joint projects: The village government also mobilizes support from Muslim and Christian communities for village development projects beneficial to all residents. In the planning and implementation process of projects, they ensure active participation from all parties without discrimination based on religion.

By adopting these measures, the Juntikebon Village Government strives to build positive and inclusive social communication between Muslim and Christian communities, as well as create a harmonious and peaceful environment in their village. The value of tolerance within the Juntikebon Village Government is to promote religious harmony. The Juntikebon Village Government, in its efforts to create a tolerant environment to foster religious harmony, instills values of tolerance within its administration and the community of Juntikebon Village. Additionally, the government actively organizes meetings involving religious figures and the community, aiming to implement values of harmony among Muslim and Christian residents in Juntikebon Village. Furthermore, the community actively participates in religious harmony events.

Suggestion

In this regard, the author provides suggestions to the Juntikebon Village Government to enhance social communication and promote tolerance in the future. The author hopes to involve young people in interfaith harmony events in Juntikebon Village, aiming for the younger generation to become part of the nation's aspirations, with their ideas and thoughts paving the way forward.

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