INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND PEACEBUILDING: LESSONS FROM ISLAMIC TRADITIONS

DIALOG ANTARA AGAMA DAN PEMBANGUNAN PERDAMAIAN: PELAJARAN DARI TRADISI ISLAM

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ABSTRACT
Interfaith dialogue plays an important role in peacebuilding, but the practices and values in Islamic teachings that can support this dialogue remain underexplored. This research aims to identify relevant Islamic practices and values that can be integrated into interreligious dialogue programs in countries experiencing conflict. Through a systematic review of existing literature, this research finds that the principles of justice, compassion, and the obligation to dialogue can be implemented effectively to increase collaboration between communities, thus making a significant contribution to peacebuilding efforts.
Keywords: Interfaith dialogue, peace building, Islamic practices, Islamic values, conflict.

ABSTRAK
Dialog antaragama memainkan peran penting dalam pembangunan perdamaian, namun praktik dan nilai-nilai dalam ajaran Islam yang dapat mendukung dialog ini masih kurang dieksplorasi. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi praktik dan nilai-nilai Islam yang relevan yang dapat diintegrasikan ke dalam program dialog antaragama di negara-negara yang mengalami konflik. Melalui tinjauan sistematis terhadap literatur yang ada, penelitian ini menemukan bahwa prinsip keadilan, kasih sayang, dan kewajiban untuk dialog dapat diimplementasikan secara efektif untuk meningkatkan kolaborasi antar komunitas, sehingga memberikan kontribusi signifikan terhadap upaya pembangunan perdamaian.
Kata Kunci: Dialog antar agama, pembangunan perdamaian, praktik Islam, nilai-nilai Islam, konflik.

1. INTRODUCTION

Interreligious dialogue acts as an important mechanism in promoting peace and resolving conflicts rooted in religious differences. In an increasingly connected and diverse world, the need for dialogue that promotes understanding and tolerance among different cultural, ethnic and religious groups has become increasingly urgent. This kind of dialogue not only reduces prejudice and stereotypes, but also encourages cooperation across communities to achieve common goals, especially in social development and peace building (Ogunbiyi, 2023; Wagay, 2022; Neufeldt, 2011). Islamic tradition offers a strong framework for creating harmony between religions, based on the principles of justice, compassion and respect for human dignity. These values are very important for building constructive dialogue and are embedded in Islamic teachings. Draft ummah or community emphasizes the importance of relationships between individuals that transcend religious boundaries. This dimension makes a significant contribution to creating an inclusive society, especially in regions affected by prolonged conflict (Elius, 2023; Khan et al., 2020). For example, research shows that interfaith initiatives in Indonesia have succeeded in building harmonious relations among diverse religious communities, proving the potential of collaboration in promoting peace (Katimin, 2020; Tarigan, 2023; Hutabarat, 2023).

Additionally, the theological foundations for interreligious dialogue in Islam have been well articulated in various academic works. The Qur'an and Sunnah provide guidance for interacting with individuals of different faiths, emphasizing mutual respect and understanding (Elius, 2023; Khan et al., 2020). Research also reveals that historical practices during the early days of Islamic rule, such as Caliph Umar's tolerant attitude towards non-Muslims, reflect a legacy of tolerance that is relevant for interreligious dialogue in the modern era (Khan et al., 2020). In addition, the integration of local wisdom and cultural practices in interfaith initiatives has been proven to increase the effectiveness of dialogue, as seen in community-based projects in Indonesia (Katimin, 2020; Rahmah & Aslamiah, 2023).

Thus, interfaith dialogue is a key element in building peace and strengthening understanding in a diverse world. Islamic tradition, with its emphasis on community, justice, and compassion, provides a solid foundation for this dialogue. Through the promotion of interfaith cooperation and understanding, communities can work together to achieve common goals and overcome challenges arising from religious and cultural differences (Ogunbiyi, 2023; Wagay, 2022; Elius, 2023; Neufeldt, 2011).

Although there is a wealth of research discussing interfaith dialogue and its role in peacebuilding, there is a gap in the literature that specifically examines the practices and values in Islamic teachings that can be integrated into such dialogue programs. Most existing studies focus more on the theoretical aspects of interreligious dialogue or on the practices of other religious traditions, while less exploring the potential of Islamic teachings as a tool for facilitating productive dialogue. This shows the need for a more in-depth and comprehensive study of the values promoted by the Islamic tradition, as well as how these values can be applied in the context of interreligious dialogue. In-depth research into these practices and values will help formulate more effective strategies in efforts to build peace amidst conflicts that are often triggered by differences in beliefs.

Based on the background and research problems that have been identified, the research questions asked are: **What are the practices and values in Islamic teachings that can be integrated into interfaith dialogue programs to encourage peace building in countries experiencing conflict?** This question aims to dig deeper into the key components of Islamic teachings that can be adapted and implemented in the context of interreligious dialogue, as well as how they can contribute to peace-building efforts.

This literature review aims to identify and analyze practices and values in Islamic teachings that are relevant for interreligious dialogue. The main focus of this study is to collect and review various literature that discusses Islamic teachings related to interreligious dialogue and peace. In addition, this study aims to analyze these practices and values, including ways of implementing them in the context of interreligious dialogue. With this approach, this review also aims to identify practical strategies for integrating Islamic values into existing interfaith dialogue programs, especially in countries facing conflict challenges. Furthermore, the results of this review are expected to provide useful recommendations for policy makers, practitioners and researchers to increase the effectiveness of interreligious dialogue and peace building. Thus, this study not only adds academic insight but also provides practical guidance for creating more inclusive and effective interreligious dialogue, and contributing to global peace.

2. METHODS
2.1. Literature Search Strategy
In conducting this systematic literature review, several major academic databases will be used to ensure comprehensive coverage and relevance to the topic under study. The databases to be used include:
- Scopus: Known as one of the leading databases in the fields of science, technology, medicine, and social sciences, Scopus provides access to peer-reviewed journals and is highly respected in the academic community.

- Web of Science: This is a multidisciplinary database that covers a wide range of scientific disciplines, providing access to a wide range of relevant journals and articles and citations that help in measuring the impact of research.
- JSTOR: This platform provides access to academic journals, books, and primary resources related to the humanities and social sciences, including religious studies and interreligious dialogue.
- Google Scholar: As an additional tool, Google Scholar will be used to explore articles that may not be listed in other databases, as well as to find relevant gray literature.

For literature searches, relevant keywords and search phrases will be determined based on the focus of this research. Some suggested keywords include:

- "Islamic values in interfaith dialogue"
- "Peacebuilding in Islam"
- "Interfaith dialogue practices"
- "Islam and peace"
- "Conflict resolution in Islamic tradition"
- "Dialogue among religions in Islamic teachings"

This keyword combination will be used with Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) to expand or narrow search results as needed.

2.2. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion and exclusion criteria will be used to determine which studies will be included in this review. Inclusion criteria include:

- Focus on interreligious dialogue in the Islamic tradition: Studies should highlight Islamic practices, values, or teachings that are relevant to interfaith dialogue and peacebuilding.
- Publications in the last 10 years: Articles published in this time period will be more relevant to the current context and developing social dynamics.
- Studies that have gone through a peer-review process: Only articles from academically recognized journals will be considered to ensure research quality.

Meanwhile, exclusion criteria include:

- Articles that are not related to the research theme: Studies that do not address Islamic practices and values in the context of interreligious dialogue will be excluded from the review.
- Non-academic documents: Material such as news articles, blogs, and public opinion pieces will not be included because they do not meet academic research standards.
- Studies that are not available in English or other relevant languages: Only literature that is accessible in a language the researcher understands will be considered.

2.3. Data Extraction and Synthesis

The data collection process will be carried out systematically from selected studies based on inclusion criteria. The data to be extracted includes the following information:

- Title and author: Identify articles and contributors.
- Research purposes: Set out the main objectives of each study reviewed.
- Methodology: Note the research approach used (for example, qualitative, quantitative, or mixed).
- Main findings: Identify the practices and values in Islamic teachings that are discussed and how they contribute fusion on interfaith dialogue and peace building.

After the data is extracted, the synthesis process will be carried out through thematic analysis. This approach involves grouping data into key themes emerging from the literature,

reflecting relevant practices and values. These findings will be presented in a clear and structured format to facilitate understanding and interpretation.

2.4. Quality Assessment

To ensure the quality and credibility of the studies included in the review, a quality assessment tool will be applied. The quality of the research will be assessed using tools such as:

- Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP): It provides a checklist for assessing the quality of qualitative and quantitative research. CASP helps in identifying strengths and weaknesses in methodology and results reporting.
- Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) Checklist: JBI offers guidance for assessing qualitative, quantitative, and mixed studies, thereby providing a comprehensive framework for evaluating the relevance and validity of research.

Each assessed study will be assigned a score based on established criteria, and only studies of good quality will be included in the final analysis. This quality assessment aims to increase the credibility and validity of the lit review systematic procedures are carried out.

3. RESULTS
3.1. Overview of Included Studies

In this section, the results of the literature review will be presented with a focus on the characteristics of the included studies. Preliminary analysis suggests that a number of 32 studies meet the specified inclusion criteria. Of the total studies, the majority were from countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Egypt and Pakistan, which has a significant Muslim population and a rich tradition of interfaith dialogue.

The research methods used in the studies reviewed were diverse, including qualitative, quantitative, and mixed approaches. Most studies use qualitative methods, such as in-depth interviews and document analysis, to explore a deeper understanding of Islamic values and practices in the context of interfaith dialogue. Quantitative studies, although fewer, often rely on surveys to collect data on individuals' attitudes and perceptions toward interreligious dialogue.

Apart from that, other characteristics that need to be considered are publication year range varied, with the majority of studies published in Last 5-10 years, reflecting relevant and current research trends. This information provides a comprehensive overview of how interreligious dialogue in the Islamic tradition is researched and understood in the current context.

3.2. Identified Practices and Values

Through analysis of the literature reviewed, a number of practices and values in Islamic teachings were identified that support interfaith dialogue and peace building. The following is a further explanation of these practices and values:

- **Principles of Justice (Adl)**

In Islamic teachings, justice is the core principle that forms the basis of the ethical framework in interactions between individuals and communities. This principle not only guides personal behavior but also forms the basis of interreligious dialogue, which demands fair treatment of individuals from various religious backgrounds. Justice in this context creates an environment that allows all religions to voice their views freely, thereby encouraging mutual respect and understanding. This concept of justice is deeply embedded in Islamic teachings, which call for equality and justice among all people, regardless of their beliefs. Various academic works support this view, emphasizing the importance of justice as a means of achieving social harmony and interreligious dialogue.

For example, Karimullah emphasized that the concept of justice in Islamic law plays an important role in addressing contemporary humanitarian issues, demonstrating its broad application in promoting fair treatment in various communities (Karimullah, 2023). Likewise, R'Boul underscores the importance of social justice within an Islamic framework, which serves as a vital component for building connectivity between cultures and reducing inequality (R'Boul, 2021). Additionally, Asmanidar notes that principles such as justice and respect for differences are essential to maintaining social harmony in diverse societies, reinforcing the idea that justice is the key to peaceful coexistence among various religious groups (Asmanidar, 2023).

Furthermore, the Islamic perspective on justice includes economic and social dimensions. This was explained by Lubis, who pointed out that Islamic banks operate based on the principles of justice and social responsibility, reflecting the ethical foundations in Islamic teachings (Lubis, 2023). This economic justice is connected to the broader framework of social justice that Islam advocates, including the fair treatment of all individuals, regardless of their religious affiliation. Islamic teachings, as explained by various scholars, emphasize that justice is not simply a legalistic concept, but rather a moral obligation that guides interpersonal relationships and the structure of society.

In the context of interreligious dialogue, the principles of justice and equality facilitate open discussion and mutual understanding between different religious communities. This is especially relevant in multicultural societies, where diverse beliefs and practices coexist. Tania's work illustrates how organizations such as Nahdlatul Ulama promote peace and harmony through Islamic values that are in line with the ideals of citizenship and social justice (Tania, 2024). Initiatives such as these are critical to creating spaces for dialogue that respect the dignity and perspectives of all participants, thereby contributing to a more inclusive society.

In conclusion, justice in Islamic teachings is a fundamental principle that not only regulates individual behavior but also shapes the dynamics of interreligious dialogue. By promoting equality and justice, Islamic teachings encourage the respectful exchange of ideas between different religious communities, creating an environment conducive to open discussion and mutual understanding.

- **Concept of Love (Rahmah)**

Concept of affection has deep roots in Islamic teachings and reflects the nature of Allah's compassion and love for all His creatures. This principle emphasizes empathy and understanding, making it an important foundation for interfaith dialogue. By recognizing that each religion teaches positive values, dialogue participants can build shared understanding and reduce conflict between diverse communities.

Compassion is a universal value that transcends religious boundaries. Various studies show that religious teachings often emphasize moral and ethical principles, including compassion. For example, Nurkholis revealed that religious values are very important in forming character, with compassion as a core component of these values (Nurkholis, 2024). Likewise, Zembylas argues that a political approach in religious education can foster affection and friendship between individuals from different backgrounds, thereby creating a more inclusive environment (Zembylas, 2014). This view is in line with the findings of Kariyawasam et al., who define compassion as sensitivity to suffering as well as a commitment to alleviating it—a sentiment recognized by various religious traditions (Kariyawasam et al., 2021).

In the context of interreligious dialogue, the integration of compassion can significantly improve the quality of interactions. Rohman notes that the application of compassion in educational settings can produce more effective learning experiences, which is also relevant in the context of interreligious dialogue where understanding and empathy are critical (Rohman, 2024). Furthermore, Kim highlights how individuals can reinterpret religious teachings to align with modern values of love and compassion, especially on social issues such as LGBTQ+ rights

(Kim, 2024). This adaptability shows the potential of compassion to bridge differences in beliefs and encourage constructive dialogue.

In addition, the role of affection in religious teachings is not limited to interpersonal relationships, but also includes broader implications for society. Eliza emphasized that universal principles of justice and compassion embedded in religious teachings can help create a cohesive community (Eliza, 2024). This perspective is especially relevant in interreligious dialogue, where the main goal is to build mutually respectful and beneficial relationships between diverse groups. Additionally, Worline and Dutton's research shows the importance of compassion in educational practice, asserting that acknowledgment of suffering and compassionate responses can enrich the learning environment, which can also be applied in interfaith interactions (Worline & Dutton, 2021).

In conclusion, concept mercy function as a powerful tool in interfaith dialogue, encouraging empathy and understanding among participants. By recognizing the values of compassion shared by various religions, communities can work together to reduce conflict and build mutual respect. The integration of compassion in educational practices and interfaith discussions is an important step to create a more harmonious society.

- **The Obligation for Dialogue and Tolerance (Tahādu')**

Islam emphasizes the importance of dialogue and tolerance, which is reflected in the concept tahadu', if it's passion for encouraging open communication and understanding between individuals. This principle is deeply rooted in Islamic teachings, which preach respectful engagement with diverse perspectives as a way to build interfaith cooperation and create peace. Khalidi highlighted the educational value of Qur'anic dialogue, which is a basic method in developing critical thinking among the younger generation of Muslims. This, according to him, helps support a culture of understanding and respect for other people's views (Khalidi, 2022). Idris emphasized that Islamic teachings historically reflect values such as honesty, love and tolerance, which are very important in a diverse society (Idris, 2024).

Apart from that, the role of Islamic education in fighting extremism is very important. Qadri revealed that by integrating the principles of diversity and respect into the educational curriculum, attitudes that reject violence and support peaceful interactions can be formed (Qadri, 2024). This view is reinforced by Khan et al., who state that Islam inherently teaches love and sympathy for humanity, as has been seen since the time of the Prophet Muhammad (Khan et al., 2020). This kind of educational framework not only addresses the need for tolerance, but also actively confronts socio-political factors that hinder peaceful diversity. This is supported by Zagoon-Sayeed, who emphasizes the role of faith-based organizations in building peace (Zagoon-Sayeed, 2022).

Draft tahadu' is also reflected in the broader Islamic perspective on religious moderation, which emphasizes a balanced approach to diversity and dialogue. Ramadhan underscores that despite negative stereotypes about Islam, this religion has deep teachings about moderation and peace (Ramadhan, 2024). This is in line with Seitakhmetova's views, who emphasize the importance of contextual understanding of Islamic tolerance to effectively counter extremism and encourage dialogue (Seitakhmetova, 2024). Mawadda's research on tolerance in Islamic education also highlights the need to integrate tolerance learning into educational material, in order to strengthen the values of respect and understanding from an early age (Mawadda, 2023).

In conclusion, the obligation to dialogue and practice tolerance in Islam is not just a theoretical concept, but a practical framework that has historical and educational significance. By creating an environment that supports open communication and respect for diversity, Islamic teachings encourage individuals to work towards peaceful diversity and interfaith cooperation, ultimately contributing to a more harmonious society.

Apart from that, other values that also frequently appear in the literature include cooperation (ta'awun), respect for differences (ikhtilaf), And social responsibility (mas'uliyah).

All these values provide a strong framework for building constructive and productive dialogue between religions.

3.3. Integration into Interfaith Dialogue Programs

This section will discuss how the practices and values identified above can be integrated into interreligious dialogue programs. This integration can be done in several ways:

1. Training and Workshops: Hold training and workshops that teach participants about relevant Islamic values, such as justice and compassion, as well as effective communication techniques for dialogue. This can help create a better understanding of the principles underlying interfaith dialogue.
2. Cultural Exchange Program: Organizing cultural exchange programs where communities from various religious backgrounds can share their religious practices. This program can create opportunities for direct dialogue and increase mutual respect.
3. Community Initiative: Forming interfaith working groups to address social problems faced by society, such as poverty or discrimination. Through this collaboration, participants can apply the values of justice and compassion in real action.
4. Policy Development: Encourage policy makers to consider Islamic values in designing interfaith dialogue programs. This may include advocating for recognition of the values of justice and tolerance in public policy.

By integrating these practices and values into interfaith dialogue programs, it is hoped that a more inclusive and peaceful environment will be created, as well as encourage better understanding between religions in countries experiencing conflict. In addition, implementing these values in daily practice will strengthen communication bridges between various communities, reduce tensions, and create more solid cooperation in achieving peace.

4. DISCUSSIONS
4.1. Interpretation of Findings

Analysis of findings regarding the role of Islamic teachings in promoting interfaith dialogue menu show that fundamental values such as justice (adl), love (grace), and the obligation to dialogue (tahadu') is not only a theoretical concept, but also a practical driver for creating constructive interactions among diverse religious communities. This is in line with literature which emphasizes the importance of religious traditions in creating an inclusive dialogue environment. For example, Schvarcz and Billig highlight the importance of pluralism in Judeo-Islamic theology as a framework for building peace, showing that interfaith dialogue rooted in shared values can enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between religious groups (Schvarcz & Billig, 2022). Likewise, Zagoon-Sayeed reveals how the Islamic perspective on tolerance and peacebuilding emphasizes the importance of building relationships through non-state elements, including religious teachings, which can significantly contribute to communal peace (Zagoon-Sayeed, 2022).

In addition, the findings of this research provide a new perspective by emphasizing that the application of these values in local social and cultural contexts is very important. This is supported by King and Owen, who argue that the institutional capacity of religious traditions can be utilized to build peace, especially when these traditions are contextualized within the dynamics of certain communities (King & Owen, 2020). The practical application of justice and compassion in interfaith dialogue initiatives, as observed in various studies, shows that these values can effectively build trust and reduce tensions arising from religious differences. For example, the interfaith movement Cute Line Veil, explored by Alfian and Halim, shows how grassroots initiatives can fight social stigma and promote peace through active engagement and dialogue among diverse religious groups (Alfian & Halim, 2022).

The implications of these findings extend to the broader discourse on peacebuilding, reinforcing the argument that Islamic teachings, if applied properly, can provide a solid

foundation for promoting interfaith dialogue and supporting peacebuilding efforts in conflict-affected regions. This is also expressed in Prasojo's work, which emphasizes the need for Islamic educational institutions to disseminate the core values of peace education, thereby building a culture of dialogue and mutual understanding among future generations (Prasojo, 2023). Additionally, the role of faith-based organizations, as noted by Thistlethwaite and Stassen, is critical in utilizing religious teachings to facilitate peace-building efforts and improve relations between communities (Zagoon-Sayeed, 2022).

In conclusion, this research emphasizes the transformative potential of Islamic teachings in promoting interfaith dialogue and peace building. By integrating these values into local practices, communities can build an environment conducive to understanding and cooperation, ultimately contributing to sustainable peace in conflict-affected areas.

4.2. Implications for Peacebuilding

The impact of these findings is very significant for peacebuilding efforts, especially in conflict-torn countries. The values identified—justice, compassion, and dialogue—can serve as a framework for designing programs that not only address differences but also build cooperation between different communities. For example, in the context of a society experiencing prolonged conflict, implementing dialogue programs based on justice values can create greater mutual respect and trust between followers of different religions.

Furthermore, by embedding these values in public policies and education programs, governments and civil society organizations can change the narrative of religion as a source of conflict into a potential source for collaboration and innovation. This is very important, considering that many conflicts that occur are often based on misunderstandings and negative stereotypes between religions. By building dialogue based on positive practices in Islamic teachings, peace building efforts can become more effective and sustainable.

4.3. Limitations of the Review

However, although these findings provide new insights, there are several limitations worth noting in this review. First, many of the studies reviewed focus on specific geographic contexts, such as Southeast Asia and the Middle East, so the generalizability of results to other contexts may be limited. In addition, most of the analyzed studies had a qualitative approach, which may affect the objectivity and validity of the results. Reliance on the same methods can limit our understanding of how these values are applied differently across cultural and social contexts.

Additionally, it is important to remember that interreligious dialogue is a complex process and often involves many external factors, such as politics and economics, that are not always covered in existing studies. Therefore, the conclusions drawn from this review must be understood in the context of these limitations, and further research is needed to explore the broader dynamics influencing the practice of interreligious dialogue.

4.4. Future Research Directions

Based on the findings and limitations identified, there are several areas of further research that need to be explored. First, further research is needed to examine the application of Islamic practices and values in the context of interreligious dialogue in various countries and cultures. Research that expands the focus to other areas with conflict, such as Europe or Africa, would provide a more comprehensive understanding of how these values function in various contexts.

Furthermore, research that combines quantitative and qualitative approaches can provide deeper insight into the relationship between Islamic values and the success of interfaith dialogue programs. By measuring the concrete impact of these programs, researchers can provide stronger evidence of the effectiveness of Islamic values in building peace.

Finally, collaboration between academics, practitioners, and community leaders in designing and implementing interfaith dialogue initiatives also needs to be explored. Research on how various stakeholders can work together to integrate Islamic values in dialogue practices will help create more sustainable and effective solutions in promoting peacebuilding.

5. CONCLUSION

In this study, we have explored practices and values in Islamic teachings that can be integrated into interfaith dialogue programs to encourage peace building, especially in countries experiencing conflict. The results of the literature review show that fundamental values such as justice (adl), compassion (rahmah), and the obligation to dialogue (tahādu') are not only relevant in religious contexts, but also offer practical approaches that can strengthen interactions between different communities.

Main findings This research includes identifying Islamic practices that support inclusive and collaborative dialogue. By emphasizing these values in a broader social and cultural context, we can find innovative ways to overcome differences that are often the source of conflict. The emphasis on justice as a basic principle in interreligious dialogue encourages recognition of the rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of their religious background. The concept of compassion not only invites Muslims to show empathy, but also builds bridges between various communities through better understanding of each other.

The importance of these practices and values support for interfaith dialogue cannot be overstated. By integrating these teachings into programs designed to encourage positive interactions, we not only increase trust and mutual respect, but also make a significant contribution to broader peace-building efforts. In the context of prolonged conflict, implementing these values can be the foundation for creating a more harmonious and sustainable community.

In conclusion, we suggest that the development of interfaith dialogue programs based on Islamic values should be a priority for policy makers, community leaders, and practitioners in the field. By understanding and applying these values, we can hope to see not only the resolution of conflict, but also progress towards more peaceful and inclusive societies around the world. Further research in this area will continue to deepen our understanding and develop effective strategies for building peace through interfaith dialogue.

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