

## PROMOTING RELIGIOUS MODERATION VILLAGES ROOTED IN LOCAL WISDOM TO STRENGTHEN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN PLURALISTIC COMMUNITIES IN BENGKULU

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### Abstract

This study aims to analyze the promotion of religious moderation villages based on local wisdom as a strategy for fostering religious cosmopolitanism in the pluralistic society of Bengkulu. This program leverages the values of tolerance, cooperation, and respect for diversity through an approach rooted in local wisdom that is rich in culture and customs. This approach is considered effective in reducing religion-based conflicts and fostering social harmony. The study employs qualitative methods, including literature review, in-depth interviews, and participatory observation. The findings indicate that the implementation of local wisdom values through the Religious Moderation Village program can enhance public awareness of the importance of diversity and strengthen religious education in building a cosmopolitan way of life. Strategic recommendations are also provided to support the expansion and sustainability of this program. Keywords: Kampung Moderasi, local wisdom, religious cosmopolitanism, pluralistic society, Bengkulu.

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### INTRODUCTION

As a large and pluralistic nation, Indonesia is rich in culture, customs and traditions, ethnic groups, languages, and religions. This cultural richness encompassing customs, traditions, ethnic groups, languages, and religions can serve as a foundation for shaping the character of its democratic society and embodying local wisdom (Mustofa et al., 2022). On the other hand, a pluralistic society (Muhammad & Zuhdi, n.d.) does not always coexist harmoniously. Religious conflict within a pluralistic society is a common occurrence because religions possess distinct characteristics and differences. One such example is the dark period experienced by Ambon for approximately four years (1999–2003).

A pluralistic society, compounded by the narrow religious understanding of its adherents, can serve as a trigger for potential instability and the threat of division. (Abidin, 2021) Fundamentally, all religions teach their adherents peace and do not tolerate violence, under any circumstances. However, in reality, there are individuals who