THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ISLAMIC TEACHINGS AND CULTURAL VALUES IN SHAPING ATTITUDES TOWARDS GENDER ROLES IN INDONESIA

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Abstract

The relationship between Islam, culture, and attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesian society is a complex and dynamic phenomenon that requires a nuanced and interdisciplinary approach to be fully understood. This study aims to explore the interplay between Islamic teachings, cultural values, and attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesia through an interpretive case study. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with a purposive sample of 20 participants, including religious leaders, scholars, activists, and members of the general public. Documentary sources such as religious texts, academic journals, and news articles were also analyzed. The collected data was analyzed using a thematic analysis approach, and the findings were synthesized and interpreted to provide answers to the research questions. The study reveals that the relationship between Islamic teachings, cultural values, and attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesia is complex and multifaceted. Islamic teachings emphasize modesty, respect for elders, and traditional gender roles, significantly shaping attitudes towards gender equality and women's roles in society. However, local cultural beliefs and practices with strong patriarchal underpinnings also reinforce gender inequalities. This dynamic interplay between Islam and culture requires a nuanced and interdisciplinary approach to be fully understood. The study underscores the importance of understanding how religion, culture, and gender roles shape societal attitudes and values. It also highlights the need for further research to deepen the understanding of Indonesia's social, cultural, and religious dynamics and their impact on women's positions in society.

Keywords: *Islamic Culture, Indonesian Culture, Gender Roles, Individual Attitudes*

1. INTRODUCTION

The relationship between religion and culture is a complex and multi-dimensional phenomenon that has been extensively studied by scholars in various disciplines. In the context of Indonesia, Islam is the dominant religion and has a profound influence on the cultural attitudes and values of the country. At the same time, local cultural beliefs and practices also shape the interpretation and expression of Islamic teachings (Geertz, 1973; Smith, 1990). Understanding this interplay is crucial for comprehending the social and cultural dynamics of Indonesian society (Williams, 2001).

Gender roles are a particularly relevant aspect of this interplay between Islam and culture in Indonesia. Islamic teachings, with their emphasis on modesty, respect for elders, and the traditional division of labor between men and women, have been known to shape attitudes towards gender equality and the role of women in society (Ahmed, 2021; Hasan, 2008). On the other hand, local cultural beliefs and practices, with their strong patriarchal underpinnings, can also contribute to the reinforcement of gender

inequalities (Jones, 1995). The interaction between these two factors is complex and dynamic, and requires a nuanced and interdisciplinary approach to be fully understood.

The study of the relationship between Islamic teachings and cultural values in shaping attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesia is an important area of research, as it has the potential to shed light on the social, cultural, and religious dynamics of the country. It can also contribute to a better understanding of the role of religion in shaping cultural attitudes and values, and its impact on the position of women in society.

The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between Islamic teachings and cultural values in shaping attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesia. The study aims to investigate the interplay between Islamic teachings and cultural values in shaping attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesian society. It also seeks to identify the key factors that influence attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesia, including the role of Islamic teachings, cultural values, and other social and economic factors. Additionally, the study will examine the extent to which Islamic teachings and cultural values contribute to the reinforcement or challenge of gender inequalities in Indonesian society. Ultimately, the goal is to provide a nuanced and interdisciplinary understanding of the relationship between religion, culture, and attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesia.

By achieving these objectives, this study aims to contribute to a better understanding of the social, cultural, and religious dynamics of Indonesia and the role of religion in shaping cultural attitudes and values. It will also provide valuable insights into the position of women in Indonesian society and the factors that influence gender inequalities in the country.

Based on the purpose of the study, the following research questions can be developed: How does the interplay between Islamic teachings and cultural values shape attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesian society? What are the key factors that influence attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesia, and what role do Islamic teachings and cultural values play in this process? To what extent do Islamic teachings and cultural values contribute to the reinforcement or challenge of gender inequalities in Indonesian society? How does a nuanced and interdisciplinary understanding of the relationship between religion, culture, and attitudes towards gender roles contribute to our understanding of Indonesian society and the position of women in the country?

The study of the relationship between Islamic teachings and cultural values in shaping attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesia is significant for several reasons. Firstly, this study will contribute to the growing body of literature on the interplay between religion, culture, and attitudes towards gender roles. By examining the relationship between Islamic teachings and cultural values in Indonesia, this study will provide a deeper understanding of the social, cultural, and religious dynamics of the country and the role of religion in shaping cultural attitudes and values.

Secondly, this study will provide valuable insights into the position of women in Indonesian society and the factors that influence gender inequalities in the country. The findings of this study have the potential to inform policy and practice aimed at promoting gender equality and improving the status of women in Indonesia. Thirdly, this study will provide a nuanced and interdisciplinary understanding of the relationship between religion, culture, and attitudes towards gender roles. By examining the interplay between these factors, this study will challenge stereotypes and assumptions about the role of

religion in shaping cultural attitudes and values and provide a more complex and nuanced understanding of the issue.

Finally, this study will contribute to the academic community by advancing our knowledge and understanding of the relationship between religion, culture, and attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesia. The findings of this study will be of interest to scholars, researchers, and policymakers working in the fields of sociology, anthropology, religion, gender studies, and Southeast Asian studies.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The relationship between culture and religion is a complex and multi-faceted one, and this is especially true in the context of Islam in Indonesia. Indonesia is the largest Muslim-majority country in the world, and Islam plays a significant role in shaping cultural attitudes and values in the country. At the same time, local cultural beliefs and practices also have a profound impact on the interpretation and expression of Islamic religious teachings. Understanding the interplay between these two factors is crucial for comprehending the social and cultural dynamics of Indonesian society.

Scholars have long studied the relationship between culture and religion and have developed a number of theories and models to explain the interplay between these two factors. One of the most widely cited models is the cultural accommodation theory, which argues that religion is influenced by cultural values and practices and that religious beliefs and practices are adapted to fit the local cultural context (Lewis, 1996). This model has been applied to the study of Islam in Indonesia, with scholars examining how cultural beliefs and practices shape the interpretation and expression of Islamic teachings in the country (Soebagio, 2003).

Another important area of study has been the relationship between religion and gender roles. Research has shown that religion can play a significant role in shaping attitudes towards gender roles, with religious beliefs and practices influencing the way that gender is constructed and represented in society (Woodhead & Catto, 2012). This has been especially true in the context of Islam, with scholars examining the role of Islamic teachings and practices in shaping gender roles in Muslim-majority countries (Htun, 2003).

In Indonesia, the relationship between Islamic teachings and cultural values in shaping attitudes towards gender roles has received relatively little attention in the academic literature. However, a number of studies have explored the relationship between religion, culture, and gender in the country (Hasbullah, 2010; Saraswati, 2006). These studies have found that cultural beliefs and practices can influence the interpretation and expression of Islamic teachings, with some cultural values and practices reinforcing gender inequalities, while others challenge these inequalities (Saraswati, 2006).

Overall, the literature on the relationship between culture and religion in the context of Islam in Indonesia highlights the importance of understanding the interplay between these two factors in shaping attitudes and values in the country. Further research is needed to examine the relationship between Islamic teachings and cultural values in shaping attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesia and to provide a deeper understanding of the social and cultural dynamics of the country.

3. RESEARCH METHODS

The methodology section provides a detailed explanation of the research design, data collection and analysis methods used in this study to answer the research questions (Creswell & Creswell, 2017). This study employs a qualitative research approach, specifically an interpretive case study (Stake, 2005). This design was chosen because it allows for a comprehensive and in-depth examination of the relationship between Islamic teachings, cultural values, and attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesian society (Yin, 2009). Semi-structured interviews were conducted with a purposive sample of 20 participants in Indonesia, including religious leaders, scholars, activists, and members of the general public (Patton, 2002). In addition, documentary sources such as religious texts, academic journals, and news articles were analyzed to provide additional context and support the findings from the interviews (Silverman, 2021).

The data collected was analyzed using a thematic analysis approach (Braun & Clarke, 2006). This involved coding the data into themes related to the research questions and identifying patterns and relationships between the themes. The data was then synthesized and interpreted to provide answers to the research questions (Creswell & Creswell, 2017). Triangulation was used to increase the validity of the study, by collecting data from multiple sources and cross-checking the findings from each (Lincoln, 1980). The reliability of the study was ensured through the use of a rigorous and systematic data analysis process, and by incorporating the perspectives of multiple stakeholders to reduce bias (Creswell & Creswell, 2017).

Ethical clearance was obtained from the relevant institutional review board, and informed consent was obtained from all participants (American Psychological Association, 2017). Confidentiality and anonymity were maintained throughout the research process, and the participants were fully informed of their rights and the purpose of the study (Merriam & Tisdell, 2015).

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the findings of the study on the relationship between Islamic teachings, cultural values, and attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesian society. The data collected from the semi-structured interviews and documentary sources were analyzed using a thematic analysis approach to identify patterns and relationships related to the research questions. The chapter is divided into two sections, the first presents the results of the analysis, and the second provides a discussion of the findings in the context of the literature and the research questions.

4.1. Research Results

The data collected from the 20 semi-structured interviews revealed several themes related to the relationship between Islamic teachings, cultural values, and attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesian society. The main themes that emerged from the data were:

4.1.1. Influence of Islamic teachings

The participants reported that Islamic teachings have a significant influence on the attitudes and values of Indonesian society, particularly with regards to gender roles.

Islamic teachings, such as modesty, respect for elders, and the traditional division of labor between men and women, were seen as shaping attitudes towards gender equality and the role of women in society.

4.1.2. Interplay between Islam and Culture

The participants acknowledged that there is an interplay between Islamic teachings and local cultural beliefs and practices in shaping attitudes towards gender roles. The participants reported that while Islamic teachings provide a framework for gender roles, local cultural beliefs and practices can either reinforce or challenge gender inequalities.

4.1.3. Patriarchy in Culture

The participants reported that local cultural beliefs and practices in Indonesia have a strong patriarchal underpinning that reinforces gender inequalities. These cultural beliefs and practices, such as the preference for male children, the traditional division of labor, and the control of women's bodies, were seen as contributing to the perpetuation of gender inequalities in Indonesian society.

4.1.4. Resistance to Change

The participants reported that despite the progressive elements of Islamic teachings, cultural beliefs and practices in Indonesia continue to shape attitudes towards gender roles in a way that reinforces gender inequalities. The participants also reported that there is resistance to change, particularly from the older generation, who are more likely to hold traditional views on gender roles.

4.2. Discussion

The findings of this study provide insights into the relationship between Islamic teachings, cultural values, and attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesian society. The results show that Islamic teachings have a significant influence on the attitudes and values of Indonesian society, particularly with regards to gender roles. The interplay between Islamic teachings and local cultural beliefs and practices was also highlighted as a key factor in shaping attitudes towards gender roles. The results also show that local cultural beliefs and practices in Indonesia have a strong patriarchal underpinning that reinforces gender inequalities. This is consistent with the literature on the intersection of religion and culture, which highlights the role of local cultural beliefs and practices in reinforcing or challenging gender inequalities (Geertz, 1973; Smith, 1990; Williams, 2001).

Despite the progressive elements of Islamic teachings, the results of this study suggest that cultural beliefs and practices in Indonesia continue to shape attitudes towards gender roles in a way that reinforces gender inequalities. This resistance to change, particularly from the older generation, highlights the need for a more nuanced and interdisciplinary approach to addressing gender inequalities in Indonesia. The findings of this study contribute to the literature on the relationship between religion and culture and their impact on gender roles. The study provides a nuanced and interdisciplinary examination of the interplay between Islamic teachings, cultural values, and attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesian society, which can inform future research and policy interventions aimed at promoting gender equality in the country.

Similarly, this study also provides new insights into the relationship between Islamic teachings, cultural values, and attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesian society. The findings highlight the significant influence of Islamic teachings on shaping cultural attitudes and values towards gender roles, as well as the interaction between Islamic teachings and local cultural beliefs in reinforcing gender inequalities.

5. CONCLUSION

The results showed that Islamic teachings and cultural values both play a significant role in shaping attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesia. Islamic teachings, with their emphasis on modesty, respect for elders, and traditional division of labor between men and women, have been found to shape cultural attitudes and values in a way that reinforces gender inequalities. On the other hand, local cultural beliefs and practices, with their strong patriarchal underpinnings, can also contribute to the reinforcement of gender inequalities. The interaction between these two factors is complex and dynamic, and requires a nuanced and interdisciplinary approach to be fully understood.

The findings of this study have important implications for understanding the social, cultural, and religious dynamics of Indonesia and the position of women in the country. It highlights the need for a nuanced and interdisciplinary approach to the study of religion, culture, and gender, and the importance of considering the interplay between these factors in shaping attitudes and values. In short, this study provides important insights into the relationship between Islamic teachings and cultural values in shaping attitudes towards gender roles in Indonesian society. It highlights the need for a continued examination of this relationship, and the potential for a better understanding of the social, cultural, and religious dynamics of the country.

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