


GUS DUR'S PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH TO PLURALISM: INSIGHTS FOR FOR SOCIAL HARMONY IN INDONESIA



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Abstract

This study explores the seminal thoughts of Kyai Haji Abdurrahman Wahid, widely known as Gus Dur, a distinguished advocate of pluralism in Indonesia. Gus Dur regarded diversity as an inherent and invaluable aspect of human existence, deserving of respect and preservation. Indonesia, celebrated for its cultural and religious diversity, simultaneously faces significant challenges in sustaining societal harmony amidst its pluralistic landscape. The research aims to critically analyze Gus Dur's perspectives on human values, tolerance, and pluralism, offering them as a conceptual framework for fostering a harmonious and inclusive society in Indonesia. Employing a qualitative methodology with a literature review approach, this study draws upon primary sources including Gus Dur's writings, speeches, and related scholarly works. The findings reveal Gus Dur's strong emphasis on intercultural dialogue, the promotion of social justice, and the safeguarding of religious freedom as foundational elements of pluralism. Moreover, he advocated for educational reforms to cultivate values of tolerance, pluralism, and the internalization of Pancasila as the ideological bedrock of national unity. By synthesizing Gus Dur's pluralistic vision, this study makes a significant contribution to academic discourse, providing actionable insights into strategies for enhancing social cohesion, embracing diversity, and building an inclusive and harmonious society, particularly within the context of Indonesia's multiculturalism.

Abstrak

Studi ini mengeksplorasi pemikiran-pemikiran penting Kyai Haji Abdurrahman Wahid, yang dikenal luas sebagai Gus Dur, seorang advokat pluralisme terkemuka di Indonesia. Gus Dur menganggap keberagaman sebagai aspek yang inheren dan tak ternilai dari keberadaan manusia, yang layak dihormati dan dilestarikan. Indonesia, yang terkenal karena keberagaman budaya dan agamanya, secara bersamaan menghadapi tantangan-tantangan besar dalam mempertahankan keharmonisan masyarakat di tengah lanskap pluralistiknya. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis secara kritis perspektif Gus Dur tentang nilai-nilai kemanusiaan, toleransi, dan pluralisme, dan menawarkannya sebagai kerangka konseptual untuk membina masyarakat yang harmonis dan inklusif di Indonesia. Dengan menggunakan metodologi kualitatif dengan pendekatan tinjauan pustaka, studi ini memanfaatkan sumber-sumber utama termasuk tulisan-tulisan, pidato-pidato, dan karya-karya ilmiah terkait Gus Dur. Temuan-temuan tersebut mengungkapkan penekanan kuat Gus Dur pada dialog antarbudaya, promosi keadilan sosial, dan perlindungan kebebasan beragama sebagai elemen-elemen dasar pluralisme. Selain itu, ia menganjurkan reformasi pendidikan untuk menumbuhkan nilai-nilai toleransi, pluralisme, dan internalisasi Pancasila sebagai landasan ideologis persatuan nasional. Dengan mensintesis visi pluralistik Gus Dur, studi ini memberikan kontribusi signifikan terhadap wacana akademis, memberikan wawasan yang dapat ditindaklanjuti mengenai strategi untuk meningkatkan kohesi sosial, merangkul keberagaman, dan membangun masyarakat yang inklusif dan harmonis, khususnya dalam konteks multikulturalisme Indonesia.



INTRODUCTION

Diversity has become one of the main elements that shape Indonesia's national identity. However, history also shows that this diversity often triggers social and political conflicts, both on a local and national scale. Ethnic tensions, such as in the social unrest in Maluku and Kalimantan, religious – based conflicts, and the politicization of identity in political contestation, all show how vulnerable pluralism is if not managed properly (Rahman, 2013). On the other hand, diversity is also a source of inspiration and strength for this nation, especially in creating cultural products, arts, and traditions that are recognized internationally (Soekarno, 2005).

The ideological framework of Pancasila offers a solid guide for managing diversity in Indonesia. With its five pillars, Pancasila emphasizes the importance of respect for the values of divinity, humanity, unity, democracy and social justice. The main challenge faced is how to embody these values in daily practice, especially amidst the influence of globalization which often brings new values that are not always in line with local culture (Hesti & A, n.d.).

The philosophy of pluralism is a way of thinking that invites us to recognize and appreciate diversity in everyday life. It covers various aspects, such as worldviews, values, cultures and religions. In this context, pluralism is not just about accepting differences, but also seeking to understand and build positive relationships between different groups (Charles, 2020). The word "pluralism" comes from the word "plural", which means many. In philosophy, this means that we should recognize that no one view or way of life can be considered absolutely correct. Instead, there are many legitimate and valid perspectives, and they all deserve to be respected and understood (Parekh, 2021).

In today's modern world, diversity is an unavoidable reality. The philosophy of pluralism emphasizes the importance of recognizing various identities, including ethnicity, religion, and culture. In this way, we are encouraged to see diversity as a source of strength, rather than a threat. This helps us to coexist more harmoniously and respectfully with each other (Miller, 2022).

Indonesia is recognized by the international community as a great country, ranging from natural wealth, ethnicity, language, tribe, race, culture and religion. To say that a country with a multicultural population that can be managed well is something beautiful and comfortable. Behind that, a constant struggle has been made to keep this multicultural country pluralistic. Such thinking was done by Gus Dur, a father of pluralism with thoughts that recognized diversity that gave birth to an attitude of tolerance and respect for others (G. Dur et al., 2022).

According to Gus Dur, pluralism is a view that accepts differences as a reality and God's decree. This view aims to get to know each other more closely, prevent divisions, and develop cooperation by instilling mutual respect, belonging, and inclusiveness. Pluralism also does not limit association with anyone, while adhering to the truth of each religion, without questioning theological issues, and based on the nation's philosophy, namely Pancasila (Anam, 2019).

The philosophy of pluralism developed by Gus Dur has several main ideas that are very relevant in the context of Indonesia's diverse society. First, Gus Dur emphasized the importance of recognizing the diversity of cultures, religions, and worldviews, believing that differences are part of human nature that must be respected. Second, he encouraged interreligious and intercultural dialog and tolerance as a way to build better understanding. According to him, good communication can reduce conflict and create harmony amidst differences.

Furthermore, Gus Dur considered social justice an important aspect of pluralism. He fought for the rights of marginalized groups and championed justice for all levels of society, demonstrating that pluralism is not only concerned with religious diversity but also with equal justice. He also supported religious freedom, arguing that every individual has the right to choose his or her faith without pressure, which is a fundamental aspect of the pluralism he espoused.

Gus Dur believes that education and awareness are key to forming a pluralist society. Education should teach the values of tolerance and respect for differences, so that the younger generation can grow up with a better understanding of diversity. He also linked pluralism to the values of spirituality and humanism, emphasizing that all religions share a common core of compassion and mutual respect. Finally, Gus Dur actively opposed all forms of intolerance and extremism, both in religious and social contexts, striving to create an inclusive and peaceful society. With these thoughts, Gus Dur made a significant contribution to the understanding of pluralism in Indonesia (Burhani et al., 2020).

To build a more pluralistic and harmonious society based on a philosophical approach, it is necessary to implement multicultural education in the school curriculum that not only teaches facts about diversity, but also instills the values of pluralism and tolerance as part of the ethics of life. With this approach, the younger generation will be equipped with a deep philosophical understanding of the importance of appreciating differences, so that they can grow into open-minded and respectful individuals. In addition, Pancasila as a unifier must be used as a foundation in strengthening a sense of togetherness in the midst of diversity.

Pancasila, as the foundation of the state, contains universal values that can unite various elements of society, regardless of ethnic, cultural or religious backgrounds. By internalizing the values of Pancasila, people are expected to build solid solidarity and unity, thus creating an inclusive and peaceful environment. By applying these two approaches, it is hoped that society can live the principles of pluralism and celebrate diversity as a gift that enriches life together (Taufani, 2018).

GUS DUR'S PHILOSOPHY ON PLURALISM

Kiai Haji Abdurrahman Wahid, familiarly called Gus Dur, was born in Jombang, East Java, September 7, 1940 to Wahid Hasyim and Solichah. A national teacher, reformer, scholar and thinker, he was born Abdurrahman ad-Dakhil or "The Conqueror", and later became better known as Gus Dur. "Gus" is a typical honorific of the Pesantren to the son of a kyai (Muallif, 2022). History records that the strength in building the unity of the people cannot be separated from the figure of K.H. Abdurrahman Wahid or known as Gus Dur. Especially, his contribution in compiling the basics of harmony and the importance of social relations in a multicultural and pluralistic context in this nation.

He showed the courage to take a stand and fight as the main character. Gus Dur made pluralism a means to invite religious people to sit together and make peace, regardless of race, tribe, ethnicity, religion, or skin color. In Gus Dur's view, all are part of humanity. One of the consequences of defense is the courage to accept criticism, both negative and constructive, as well as criticism if it crosses the line of tolerance. As a traditional Islamic intellectual, Gus Dur mastered the classical Islamic sciences that were his basis. However, he also had a deep understanding of social science, culture, art, politics and world religions. Gus Dur was very consistent in his goal, which was to revive human values through various approaches (Zainuri & Al-Hakim, 2018).

Gus Dur, has a deep view of pluralism rooted in a philosophical approach that values diversity as an integral part of human life. In his view, pluralism is not just a theoretical

concept, but a moral and ethical imperative to create a peaceful and prosperous society. He argues that recognition of diversity is the essence of national life, where every individual is recognized for their rights and dignity regardless of ethnic, cultural or religious background.

Gus Dur's philosophy emphasizes that tolerance is the foundation to prevent division, mutual respect and understanding of differences is the key to creating social harmony. In addition, he emphasized the importance of inclusivity in pluralism, where everyone is given the space to interact and mingle without losing their identity. With this humanist and inclusive philosophical approach, Gus Dur invited people to see pluralism as a bridge to connect differences, strengthen unity, and build stronger social ties amid diversity. In his view, diversity is not a threat, but a gift that must be preserved (Suwardiansyah, 2017).

THE RELEVANCE OF GUS DUR'S PHILOSOPHY OF PLURALISM

The philosophy of pluralism developed by Gus Dur has several points of thought that are very relevant to the context of Indonesia's diverse society. Here are some of the main points of discussion:

Recognition of Diversity

Gus Dur emphasized that the diversity of cultures, religions, and worldviews is an integral part of human nature that must be respected and upheld. In his view, each individual has a different background, which shapes the way they see the world and interact with others. This diversity not only enriches social life, but is also a source of strength for Indonesia's multicultural society (Sari & Dozan, 2021).

Gus Dur believed that respecting diversity was the first step to building a harmonious society. He argued that by recognizing and accepting differences, we can create an atmosphere conducive to dialogue and mutual understanding. In the context of Indonesia, which is rich in ethnic and cultural variations, recognizing diversity is crucial to preventing conflict and strengthening unity (G. U. S. Dur et al., 2024).

Furthermore, Gus Dur also invited people to see diversity as a gift, not as an obstacle. Thus, everyone is expected to contribute to creating an inclusive environment, where everyone feels accepted and valued. Within this framework of pluralism, diversity becomes the foundation for building respectful and supportive relationships between different groups in society.

Dialogue and Tolerance

Gus Dur consistently promoted the importance of interreligious and intercultural dialogue as a means to build better understanding between different groups of people. He believed that by opening up space to talk and listen, we can overcome the prejudices and stereotypes that are often the source of conflict. In his view, dialog is not just an exchange of words, but also a deep process that involves empathy and understanding of other people's points of view. As such, Gus Dur invited all parties to participate in constructive discussions, where every voice is valued and recognized (Anwar, n.d.).

According to Gus Dur, good communication is also key to reducing conflict and creating harmony amidst differences. He emphasized that the way we communicate can affect relationships between individuals and between groups. In the context of a diverse society, open and honest communication is necessary to bridge differences. Gus Dur encouraged people to use respectful and appreciative language, and to avoid hate speech that can fuel tensions. By building effective communication, we can create an atmosphere

conducive to cooperation and collaboration, so that people can live in harmony despite stark differences.

Through dialog and good communication, Gus Dur believed that we can build an inclusive society, where every individual feels valued and accepted. In this way, pluralism can be realized in practice, not just as a concept, so that Indonesian society can continue to thrive in a spirit of unity and mutual understanding.

Social Justice

Gus Dur was a champion of the rights of marginalized groups, who were often marginalized in the social and political structures of society. He was committed to fighting for justice for all sections of society, especially those who had no voice in decision – making. In his view, social justice should include efforts to provide equal access to resources, education and employment opportunities for all individuals, regardless of their background. Gus Dur believed that everyone deserves fair and equal treatment, so that no one feels neglected or discriminated against.

Furthermore, Gus Dur pointed out that pluralism is closely related to equal justice. He argued that to achieve a pluralist society, justice must be the basic principle governing relations between groups. In this context, pluralism is not just a recognition of diversity, but also the upholding of the rights of every individual and group to live with dignity (Mulia, 2018). Gus Dur emphasized that without justice, pluralism will lose its meaning, because injustice will create tension and conflict among various groups. Thus, he encouraged all parties to commit to the principles of social justice as the foundation for building a harmonious and sustainable society, where everyone feels valued and has an equal place.

Freedom of Religion

Freedom of religion is an inviolable human right, and Gus Dur was one of the most vocal champions of this principle. He believed that everyone has the right to choose, believe and practice their religion according to their conscience without coercion from any party. According to Gus Dur, diversity of beliefs is a gift from God that must be cared for, because it is through this diversity that humans learn to respect and understand each other. In a plural society, religious freedom is the main foundation for creating a harmonious life.

For Gus Dur, religious freedom was not just an individual right, but also a way to realize social justice. He warned that discrimination or violence on the basis of religion not only hurts the hearts of individual victims, but also undermines human values. Therefore, he encouraged people to build constructive interfaith dialog, which can strengthen relations between religious communities. For him, respecting the beliefs of others is a tangible form of tolerance and social responsibility.

Gus Dur also emphasized that education plays an important role in instilling the values of pluralism and religious freedom. By providing a correct understanding of diversity from an early age, the younger generation can grow into individuals who respect differences. He believed that a civilized society is one that upholds the right to choose one's faith, as this shows respect for human dignity. In Gus Dur's view, religious freedom is not only the property of the majority, but also the right of every individual, including minority groups who often face challenges to practice their beliefs.

By fighting for religious freedom, Gus Dur invited people to see differences not as a threat, but as an opportunity to learn and develop together. He believed that tolerance and respect for human rights were key to building a more peaceful and loving world. A society that respects religious freedom will be a place where everyone feels safe and

accepted, regardless of their faith background. Gus Dur taught that freedom of belief is not only a right, but also a shared responsibility to maintain harmony in the midst of diversity.

Education and Awareness

Education plays an important role in instilling values of tolerance and respect for differences. Through education, individuals are taught to respect diversity and understand that differences are a natural part of social life. Tolerance education can be a bridge to creating harmony, by teaching that every faith and culture has equal value. For the younger generation, a good education provides the foundation to grow up with a deep understanding of diversity. With this, they can become agents of change who promote unity and mutual respect in a plural society. Education that instills awareness of the importance of tolerance not only shapes open individuals, but also creates a more inclusive and peaceful society.

To realize this thought, as echoed by Gus Dur, multicultural learning is needed so that human values will remain alive. Multicultural learning within the scope of the philosophy of pluralism in Indonesia plays a very strategic role in the formation of a harmonious and inclusive national character. Considering that Indonesia is known as a country with rich cultural, ethnic, religious, and linguistic diversity, education has a difficult task in fostering understanding, mutual respect, and solidarity among groups of people who have different backgrounds. Along with the times and the increasingly globalized society, multicultural education is becoming increasingly important to overcome potential conflicts that can arise due to misunderstanding and prejudice against differences that exist in society (Hartono et al., 2024).

Multicultural learning is not just an effort to introduce diversity, but also about creating space for each individual to respect differences, respect human rights, and understand that differences are not a threat, but a wealth that must be preserved and empowered (Lestari & Sa'adah, 2021). Therefore, the education system in Indonesia must be able to create a generation that not only has intellectual intelligence, but also high social intelligence, which is able to interact with individuals from various cultural and religious backgrounds with tolerance and mutual respect. Education based on multicultural values will provide very important provisions for Indonesia's young generation to understand and overcome increasingly complex global challenges (Hartono et al., 2024).

Another factor that plays an important role in multicultural learning is the role of family and community. Multicultural learning should not only stop at the school environment, but should also be reinforced outside of school through family and community interactions. Learning received at school will be more effective if supported by a social environment that also values and celebrates diversity. Therefore, the family as the smallest unit in society must have sufficient understanding of the values of diversity and multiculturalism, and be able to teach these values in everyday life (A & Wibowo, 2021). Likewise, society must create space for individuals to interact peacefully and respect each other despite coming from different backgrounds (F, 2023).

Multicultural education also plays a role in reducing the potential for social conflict that can arise due to differences in cultural identity. In Indonesia, diverse cultural identities are often a vulnerable point for social tension or conflict, especially in areas that have a long history of tension between ethnic or religious groups. One clear example is the conflicts that occurred in various regions, such as Maluku and Poso, which stemmed from the inability of people to manage their different cultural identities. Multicultural

education, with a focus on learning about the values of peace, tolerance and inter – group cooperation, can help prevent the escalation of protracted conflicts. In this case, education acts as an effective preventive tool to create a society that is not only safe but also just and prosperous.

Overall, multicultural learning not only aims to teach academic skills, but also to foster an attitude of tolerance, appreciation of differences, and mutual respect between existing cultural groups. Effective multicultural education will provide a strong foundation for the formation of an Indonesian society that is not only diverse, but also united in diversity.

Multicultural learning has a very important role in the context of pluralism developed by Gus Dur. It helps build tolerance by understanding and appreciating differences in culture, religion and worldview. By recognizing diversity, individuals can develop a tolerant attitude towards others. In addition, in the context of a diverse Indonesia, multicultural learning also strengthens national identity, so as to understand that despite differences, all have the same identity as part of the Indonesian nation, in line with the spirit of Pancasila as a unifying ideology.

In addition, multicultural learning serves to reduce the potential for conflict that often arises due to misunderstanding or prejudice against other groups. Gus Dur believed that good education could be the solution to overcoming divisions. It also encourages participation in intercultural dialog, which is essential for building good relationships between different groups and creating cooperation in society. Through multicultural learning, individuals are taught to care about social issues faced by different groups in society, including an understanding of social justice and human rights (Prasetyo, 2021).

Thus, multicultural education prepares the younger generation to live in an increasingly globalized and diverse society. With a good understanding of pluralism, they are expected to become wise leaders who are able to manage diversity well. Overall, multicultural learning is very important in strengthening the principles of pluralism taught by Gus Dur, so that it can create a more harmonious, inclusive and just society, and make differences a source of strength for mutual progress.

Spirituality and Humanism

Spirituality and humanism are important foundations in Gus Dur's thinking about pluralism. He believed that all religions share a common core of compassion, mutual respect and respect for human dignity. In his view, these values are the essence of true religion, which should be the main guide in social life. Gus Dur often reminded us that religion is not just ritual or dogma, but a way to develop love and a deep sense of humanity. With this approach, he emphasized that spirituality should lead people to a more peaceful, just and harmonious life (Ridwan, 2024).

According to Gus Dur, humanism in religion teaches that all humans are equal beings in the eyes of God, regardless of their faith background. He believed that respect for humanity is a real form of worship, because by loving others, one also reflects his love for God. In the context of pluralism, humanism becomes a link that overcomes the barriers of religious differences, encouraging dialogue and cooperation between religious communities. Gus Dur saw that by understanding this core spirituality, we can erase prejudice and build better relationships in the midst of diversity (Herlina et al., 2021).

Furthermore, Gus Dur taught that the values of humanism in religion do not only apply in relationships between individuals, but must also be reflected in social and government policies. He encouraged people to make compassion and respect for human rights the basis for building an inclusive nation. Gus Dur believed that by taking

spirituality and humanism as a guide, religion could be a uniting rather than divisive force. In an increasingly complex and diverse world, his teachings are relevant to creating a more just, peaceful and loving world.

Countering Intolerance and Extremism

Gus Dur was a consistent figure in opposing all forms of intolerance and extremism, because he believed that these attitudes were contrary to human values, religion, and the spirit of Pancasila as the nation's unifying ideology. For him, intolerance not only damages the lives of certain individuals or groups, but also threatens the unity that is the foundation of national life. Gus Dur understood that Pancasila, with its five precepts reflecting the values of togetherness, justice and respect for diversity, was an important guide to counter intolerance. In his view, the application of Pancasila values can be the foundation for people to live in harmony amidst religious, cultural and ethnic differences.

In countering extremism, Gus Dur used Pancasila as a reflection tool to remind the importance of upholding a just and civilized humanity. He believed that extremism, often based on narrow fanaticism, contradicted the second and fifth precepts of Pancasila, which emphasize social justice and respect for human rights. Therefore, Gus Dur encouraged dialog across religions and cultures to foster an understanding that every individual has an equal place in society. For him, education about Pancasila and pluralism is a strategic step to build a young generation that values diversity and makes differences a strength, not a threat.

In Gus Dur's mind, Pancasila as the basic ideology of the Indonesian state has an important role in maintaining the integrity and unity of a very diverse nation. As a basic ideology, Pancasila contains values that emphasize respect for differences and raise awareness of pluralism, which is a key foundation for inclusive democracy in Indonesia (Marzuki, 2016). In this context, Pancasila teaches that diversity is not only accepted, but also valued as a source of strength that can strengthen national unity. Through Pancasila, values such as just and civilized humanity, Indonesian unity, and social justice can become the pillars that connect Indonesia's diverse ethnicities, religions, and cultures, which in turn serve to foster a healthy and sustainable democracy.

Pancasila, in this case, is not just a symbol, but a guide that can be applied in everyday life to create national unity. One of the values contained in Pancasila is mutual respect and understanding of differences, especially between various religious communities in Indonesia. In a pluralistic society, it is important for every individual to have an attitude of tolerance and mutual respect, especially in the midst of religious and cultural diversity. The application of the value of mutual respect is expected to reduce fanaticism that can potentially lead to conflict and tension between groups. By fostering a deeper understanding between religious and cultural communities, a solid foundation is created for the formation of a stronger national unity. As stated, by emphasizing respect for these differences, Pancasila plays an important role in reducing social tensions and strengthening national integration (Pertiwi & Dewi, 2021).

In addition, Pancasila also teaches that democracy in Indonesia must go hand in hand with respect for diversity. Democracy in Indonesia is not just a system of government that upholds the people's right to vote, but also a system that emphasizes the principles of equality and mutual respect between existing groups. Pancasila provides a solid moral basis for realizing democracy that not only involves formal procedures, but also prioritizes social values that encourage national unity, despite many differences. In the midst of globalization that brings values that sometimes conflict with local culture, Pancasila

remains a foothold that directs Indonesians to maintain their cultural and religious identity, while opening space for cooperation and tolerance between groups.

Overall, Pancasila as Indonesia's state ideology not only serves as the basis for the government system, but also as a tool that encourages the creation of a more just, peaceful and prosperous society. In facing the challenges of globalization and ever – changing social dynamics, Pancasila offers relevant solutions to maintain the balance between pluralism and national unity, making Indonesia an example of a country that can manage diversity well within the frame of unity (Indah, n.d.).

Pancasila as a unifying ideology is very important in Gus Dur's philosophy of pluralism because it provides a strong moral and ethical foundation to overcome differences in society. The values contained in Pancasila, such as justice, unity, and humanity, serve as guidelines for creating a harmonious and respectful society. Gus Dur considered diversity to be the wealth of the nation, and Pancasila recognizes the various ethnicities, religions, and cultures that exist in Indonesia, thus creating space for each group to be recognized and valued. In addition, Pancasila encourages intercultural and interreligious dialog, which is the essence of pluralism. Gus Dur believed that through dialog, people can build better understanding and reduce the potential for conflict arising from differences.

Furthermore, Pancasila emphasizes the importance of social justice for all people, which in the context of pluralism means ensuring that all groups in society, including minorities, have equal rights and opportunities and protection from discrimination. Gus Dur also saw education as an important tool to spread the values of Pancasila and pluralism. With good education, the younger generation can be taught to appreciate differences and coexist peacefully. In addition, Pancasila provides a framework for protecting the rights of minority groups, for which Gus Dur fought to have their voices and rights recognized (Ilham Febri Budiman, 2024).

Overall, Pancasila as a unifying ideology serves as a foundation that enables Indonesian society to live in diversity with mutual respect and cooperation. Thus, Pancasila serves not only as the basis of the state, but also as a guideline for creating justice, tolerance and harmony in a diverse society. In the context of the fight against intolerance and extremism, the values of Pancasila become a moral weapon that emphasizes the importance of unity in the midst of diversity, as Gus Dur always emphasized.

Gus Dur saw pluralism as a way out of the potential conflicts that can arise due to religious, cultural and ethnic differences. Pluralism, which is in line with the spirit of Pancasila, teaches the importance of mutual respect and understanding that diversity is the wealth of the nation, not a threat. Amid the challenges of maintaining diversity in Indonesia, Gus Dur emphasized that the application of a unifying ideology such as Pancasila must be accompanied by in – depth multicultural learning. This is so that each individual understands the values of humanity, justice and brotherhood that are at the core of the Pancasila philosophy.

Thus, multicultural learning and a deep understanding of Pancasila became central to Gus Dur's thinking in building an inclusive and harmonious society. He believed that through this approach, Indonesia could remain a pluralist country, where every citizen felt valued and protected. By using Pancasila as a foundation in the fight against intolerance and extremism, Indonesians can not only prevent division, but also realize the ideals of a united, just and peaceful nation. Gus Dur taught that true harmony can only be achieved if all parties are committed to practicing the values of Pancasila in everyday life.

CONCLUSIONS

The conclusion of Gus Dur's thoughts on pluralism, religious freedom, and tolerance shows how relevant his teachings are in the context of Indonesia, which is rich in diversity. Gus Dur saw pluralism as a moral and ethical necessity, not just a theory that serves to create a just and peaceful society. In his view, every religion teaches universal values such as compassion, mutual respect and respect for humanity, which are the basis for creating a harmonious life. Pancasila, according to Gus Dur, is a unifying ideology capable of integrating diversity within the frame of unity, and should be used as a foundation in every aspect of social and political life.

Gus Dur emphasized the importance of tolerance education and multicultural learning to develop an understanding of pluralism among Indonesians. With the application of Pancasila values that prioritize social justice, every individual, regardless of religious or ethnic background, is entitled to equal rights and respect. Gus Dur also championed religious freedom as a human right that must be protected, encouraged the creation of spaces for interfaith dialog and strengthened interfaith relations in Indonesia.

Through his struggle, Gus Dur invited all elements of society to see diversity as a potential, not a threat. He believed that by prioritizing human values and compassion in everyday life, Indonesia could maintain unity and achieve sustainable peace amidst its diversity. Gus Dur's thoughts remain relevant as guidelines in facing the challenges of intolerance and extremism in an increasingly pluralistic world.

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