Phenomenological Study On The Role Of Social Capital For Harmony In Inclusive Communities In Religious Moderation Villages

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Abstract
This study examines harmonious social interactions in interfaith relations in the Moderation Religious Village, Sidodadi Village, Gedangan District, Malang Regency. This village is known for its values of tolerance and harmony between religious communities, becoming an example of an inclusive society amidst the challenges of minimal social tolerance. This study aims to phenomenologically describe the process of harmonious social interactions and understand the meaning of social capital in interfaith life. The approach used is descriptive qualitative with phenomenological methods. The focus of the study includes the role of community initiatives, challenges, and strategies in building harmonious social relations. In addition, this study explores the meaning of social capital in interfaith interactions based on perceptions, utilization, and supporting elements. The research informants comprised representatives of the Interfaith Communication Forum (FKAUB), the sub-district government, the village government, and the local community. Data collection techniques include observation, documentation, in-depth interviews, and Focus Group Discussions (FGD), while data analysis was carried out through a phenomenological approach. The study results indicate that harmonious interfaith relations are formed through community initiatives, inclusive decision-making, and interfaith forums that strengthen social cohesion. Social capital plays a role in overcoming social barriers, encouraging interfaith cooperation, and strengthening solidarity in diversity. Recommendations are addressed to local governments, communities, and interfaith communication forums to maintain and strengthen inclusive practices.
Keywords: social interaction, interfaith, social capital, inclusive society, phenomenology

INTRODUCTION

Social harmony in a religiously diverse society is both a challenge and a necessity in building an inclusive community (Costantini et al., 2024; Yatmo, 2024; Zhu et al., 2022). Amid a social reality that is often colored by identity-based conflicts, efforts to create a harmonious social space are becoming increasingly relevant. The Religious Moderation Village in Sidodadi Village, Gedangan District, Malang Regency, is a real example of how tolerance can be realized through the active role of the community and institutional support. In this context, social capital plays a role as the main factor that enables the community to build and maintain harmony between religious communities (Huda et al., 2020; Kruja, 2022).Conceptually, social capital refers to the network of relationships (Asquith & Asquith, 2019), norms (Alecu et al., 2022), and beliefs (Calderon Gomez, 2021; Petrić´ & Tomić´-Koludrović´, 2021) that facilitate cooperation within a community. In an inclusive society, social capital is not only a tool to strengthen relationships between individuals but also becomes the foundation for broader interfaith interactions. The Religious Moderation Village in Sidodadi Village offers an interesting case study in understanding how social capital functions in creating social cohesion and managing differences.This study seeks to explore in depth the process of social interaction that occurs in the community. Through a phenomenological approach, this study highlights the experiences, meanings, and social practices that shape harmonious relationships between religious communities. This study not only focuses on the theoretical aspects of social capital but also explores how this concept is operated in the daily lives of the local community.

In addition, this study also attempts to answer two main questions, namely how harmonious social interactions are established in an inclusive society in the Moderation Religious Village, and how social capital is understood and utilized in the context of interfaith life. By understanding these two aspects, it is hoped that this study can contribute to the development of social capital theory in the study of the sociology of religion and offer practical recommendations for policymakers and other social actors.

Methodologically, this study uses a qualitative descriptive approach with a phenomenological method. Data collection techniques involve participatory observation, in-depth interviews, documentation, and Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with various related parties, such as the Interfaith Communication Forum (FKAUB), village and sub-district governments, and the local community. Data analysis was carried out through the stages of data reduction, categorization, theme identification, and interpretation of social meaning.Generally, the community in the Moderation Religious Village has succeeded in creating social harmony through inclusive decision-making, active participation in interfaith religious activities, and strengthening social networks based on trust and solidarity. Social capital in this context not only helps overcome social barriers that have the potential to trigger conflict but also functions as a mechanism for strengthening collective identity based on shared values.The indicates of the social harmony of sustainability is highly dependent on the existence of a communication forum that functions as a forum for interfaith dialogue. With this forum, the community has space to discuss differences without causing tension, and to formulate joint solutions to various social problems faced. From an academic perspective, this study enriches the literature on social capital in the context of an inclusive society (Halstead et al., 2022; Hrabéczy et al., 2023; Liamputtong et al., 2022). In practice, these findings can be a foundation for local governments and community organizations in designing policies and programs that support the development of tolerant and harmonious communities (Johnson, 2024). Thus, this study has broad implications, both in theoretical and applied areas.Social capital is a concept that has long been a concern in sociological studies and other social sciences. Putnam (1994) defines social capital as social networks, norms, and trust that encourage coordination and cooperation for the common good. In the context of an inclusive society, social capital is an important factor that can support harmonious interactions between different groups, including in interfaith relations.

Coleman, 1988) stated that social capital has three main elements, namely obligations and expectations, information capacity, and social norms and sanctions. These three elements play a role in building mutual trust and solidarity in the community. In this study, the concept is used to understand how norms and social networks contribute to harmony in the Religious Moderation Village.

Bourdieu, (1992) offers another perspective by emphasizing that social capital cannot be separated from economic and cultural capital. In the context of an inclusive society, the existence of strong social capital can strengthen cultural capital in the form of tolerance values, which ultimately create better social cohesion. This study adopts this perspective in analyzing how social capital is used to maintain social harmony in interfaith societies.In the context of religious moderation, research conducted by Subchi et al., (2022) shows that inclusive social interactions can be strengthened through social institutions that encourage interfaith dialogue. Their study revealed that the existence of interfaith communication forums plays an important role in reducing potential conflicts and increasing understanding between religious communities. This is relevant to the findings in the Religious Moderation Village, where communication forums are the main means of building harmonious relationships.Several studies in Indonesia have also examined the role of social capital in plural societies. For example, research conducted by Afsahi (2022) shows that social capital based on the values of mutual cooperation and deliberation has a significant impact on the sustainability of social interactions in diverse communities. This study is an important reference in understanding how social capital functions in an inclusive society.In a phenomenological study, Schutz (1970) emphasized the importance of subjective experience in understanding social reality. This approach is relevant in this study because it allows for an in-depth exploration of the meaning of social capital in the daily lives of people in the Moderation Religious Village. By understanding the subjective experiences of residents, this study can provide richer insights into how social capital operates in social interactions.Overall, this literature review shows that social capital has a very important role in building harmony in an inclusive society. The various perspectives that have been described provide a strong conceptual framework for analyzing how social capital functions in interfaith relations. With a phenomenological approach, this study seeks to contribute to an enriching understanding of the role of social capital in building a harmonious and inclusive society.

Research Methods

This study uses a qualitative approach with a phenomenological method to understand the subjective experiences of the community in building interfaith harmony in the Moderation Religious Village,
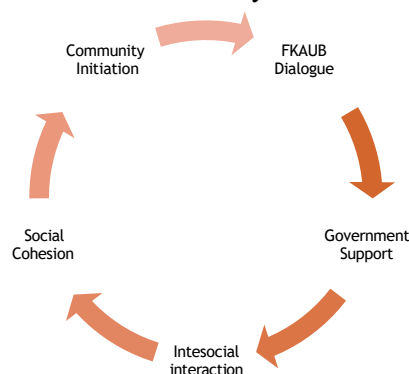
Sidodadi Village, Gedangan District, Malang Regency. The phenomenological method was chosen because it allows researchers to explore the deep meaning of the social experiences experienced by inclusive communities. The focus of this study includes the role of social capital in building harmonious social interactions, the challenges faced, and the strategies used in maintaining inclusivity amidst diversity. Data collection techniques were carried out through in-depth interviews, participatory observation, documentation, and Focus Group Discussions (FGD). Research informants consisted of representatives of the Interfaith Communication Forum (FKAUB), sub-district government, village government, and local communities who were actively involved in efforts to maintain social harmony. The data obtained were analyzed using a phenomenological analysis method which includes identification of meaning units, thematic interpretation, and in-depth interpretation of the community's social experiences (Rasid et al., 2021; Schutz, 2012). These analysis steps aim to gain a comprehensive understanding of the role of social capital in building social cohesion and inclusivity.To ensure the validity of the data, this study applied the triangulation techniques of sources, methods, and time. Source triangulation was carried out by comparing various informant perspectives, while method triangulation combined interviews, observations, and documents. Community leaders and interfaith forums play a role in promoting unity and celebrating religious diversity. They actively encourage open discussions and conflict resolution to build trust between different religious groups. This approach not only creates a conducive space for dialogue but also reduces prejudice and stereotypes that can trigger conflict.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Harmonious Social Interaction in Interfaith Relations

In the context of an inclusive society in the Moderation Religious Village in Sidodadi Village, harmonious social interaction does not occur instantly but is the result of various community initiatives that actively build and maintain interfaith relations. These efforts involve various parties, including community leaders, interfaith forums, and village and sub-district governments.Community leaders and interfaith forums play a role in promoting unity and celebrating religious diversity. They actively encourage open discussion and conflict resolution to build trust between different religious groups. This approach not only creates a conducive space for dialogue but also reduces prejudice and stereotypes that can trigger conflict. In addition, decision-making in the village is carried out inclusively by involving representatives from all religious groups. This is supported by the government at the sub-district and village levels which provide policy support and funding to ensure the sustainability of a harmonious community. With the involvement of all parties, the potential for social friction can be minimized.Harmonious social interaction is also strengthened through various joint social activities, such as community service, interfaith education programs, and cultural understanding. In this case, religious figures play an important role as facilitators to teach the values of religious moderation and respect for differences in beliefs. This effort creates a more open and supportive environment. The result of these efforts is the formation of good social cohesion, which ultimately creates inclusivity in community life. This social cohesion is seen in attitudes of mutual respect, more open communication, and a spirit of cooperation involving all religious groups.

Figure 1. Flowchart of Harmonious Interaction in Society

Source: Data Processed by Researchers, 2024

Figure 1 shows a flowchart of harmonious community interaction in the context of interfaith life in the Moderation Religious Village.

In this chart, there is a cycle of interconnected interactions between various elements that support social harmony. This process begins with community initiatives and community leaders who play an active role in promoting unity and the values of diversity. This effort then continues with the involvement of interfaith forums and inclusive decision-making processes, which ensure that all groups have a role in building a harmonious social life. In addition, social interaction is also strengthened through various joint activities such as interfaith education programs, cultural understanding, and the involvement of religious figures who act as mediators in building trust and resolving conflicts peacefully.

Furthermore, the results of harmonious social interaction in this chart are shown by the formation of strong social cohesion, which creates a sense of togetherness and solidarity in society. This cohesion allows for the creation of an inclusive environment where religious differences do not become separators, but instead enrich social dynamics. This cycle continues and strengthens the community's social capital, which serves as a foundation for facing various challenges such as religious stereotypes, economic disparities, and external influences that can disrupt social harmony. Thus, this chart illustrates how various elements of community interaction are interrelated in forming, maintaining, and improving harmonious social life in an inclusive community.Although community initiatives in building an inclusive community have shown positive results, various challenges remain. One of the main challenges is the persistence of religious stereotypes that can create social barriers between different groups. In addition, economic disparities are also a factor that can worsen social inequality and cause dissatisfaction in society. Limited resources are also an obstacle in implementing various inclusive programs that have been designed. Meanwhile, generational differences sometimes present challenges in aligning perceptions regarding the importance of religious moderation, especially among more conservative communities. External influences, such as identity politics and propaganda from certain groups, can also be a threat to the harmony that has been built.To overcome these challenges, the community has implemented various strategies. One of the steps taken is strengthening educational programs that instill values of inclusivity from an early age. This program involves schools, places of worship, and youth organizations to form a generation that is more open to diversity. In addition, economic empowerment initiatives are also an important strategy in maintaining social stability. By creating equal economic opportunities for all religious groups, economic inequality can be reduced, thus avoiding social jealousy that has the potential to disrupt community harmony.Mobilization of resources, both from the government and the private sector, is also utilized to support inclusiveness programs. In this case, village and sub-district governments play a role in providing access to resources needed by the community to run various social programs. Intergenerational dialogue is also an effective approach to bridging differences in perspectives between different age groups. Through open discussions, the older generation can understand the perspectives of more modern young people, while the younger generation can also learn from local wisdom that has been inherited. To strengthen community involvement in efforts to build inclusiveness, the community also forms monitoring and mediation mechanisms. This aims to detect potential conflicts early on and resolve them before they develop into bigger problems.To increase inclusivity, community leadership is strengthened to be more effective in promoting inclusive practices. Community leaders are given training on conflict management and strategies to build stronger social cohesion. Integration of cultural traditions is also a strategy to strengthen interfaith relations. By adopting long-standing local values, communities can find common ground in diversity and create a more inclusive social identity. Continuous involvement in inclusivity programs is also maintained through regular meetings and periodic evaluations of the effectiveness of the programs that have been implemented. With this approach, any obstacles can be immediately addressed and programs can continue to be adjusted to the needs of the community.

Figure 2. Challenges, Opportunities, and Strategies for Maintaining and Improving Creating an Inclusive Society
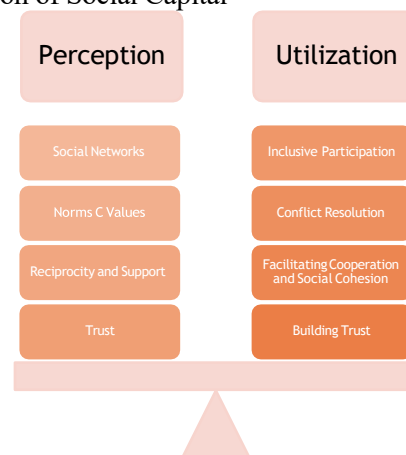

Source: Data Processed by Researchers, 2024

Figure 2 illustrates the relationship between challenges, opportunities, and strategies in building and maintaining an inclusive society in the Moderation Religious Village. This diagram shows that in the process of realizing a harmonious social life, the community is faced with various challenges such as stereotypes and prejudices between religions, economic disparities, limited human resources, and generational differences that can affect social interactions. These challenges are factors that have the potential to hinder efforts to create an inclusive and harmonious society. However, on the other hand, some opportunities can be utilized, such as increasing social awareness of the importance of tolerance, active community participation, and government policy incentives that support social cohesion at the community level.To overcome these challenges and maximize these opportunities, the community implements various strategies involving inclusive education, economic empowerment programs to reduce disparities, and strengthening intergenerational dialogue mechanisms to build understanding and reduce conflict. In addition, the community also integrates cultural values into their social lives and strengthens collaboration with external parties, such as government institutions and social organizations, to obtain support in maintaining inclusive practices. With the synergy between these strategies, the community can not only face existing challenges but also further strengthen social capital to create a harmonious and sustainable environment.The use of social media is one of the tools used to spread messages of peace and expand the reach of inclusiveness campaigns. With this approach, communities can reach more people and invite more parties to get involved in social movements. Finally, collaboration with external partners, such as non-governmental organizations, universities, and international organizations, is carried out to obtain further support in building a more inclusive and harmonious society. With these various strategies, the people of the Moderation Religious Village in Sidodadi Village can face challenges and continue to build a harmonious environment. The success in creating an inclusive society is an example of how social capital can be a major force in maintaining harmony amidst differences.

The Meaning of Social Capital in Interfaith Interaction

In a diverse society, social capital is an important element in building harmonious and inclusive relationships. Social capital refers to the values, norms, and social networks that enable individuals and groups to work together to achieve common goals. In the Religious Moderation Village in Sidodadi Village, social capital plays a key role in creating positive and sustainable interfaith interactions.

The community's perception of social capital greatly determines how interfaith relationships are formed and developed. Trust, reciprocity, shared values, and social networks are the main foundations that form social capital in Sidodadi Village. Trust between religious groups is a main pillar that reduces prejudice and stereotypes, allowing communities to live side by side peacefully. Reciprocity in various social activities creates closer relationships, while shared values lead communities to the principle of mutual respect in diversity
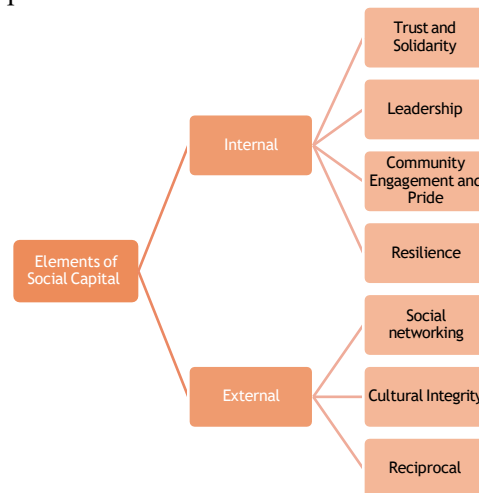
Figure 3. Perception and Utilization of Social Capital

Source: Data Processed by Researchers, 2024

Figure 3 illustrates the balance between perception and utilization of social capital in building harmonious social interactions in an inclusive society. The perception of social capital consists of several main elements, namely social networks, norms and values, reciprocity and support, and trust. These elements serve as the foundation for creating close and mutually beneficial relationships between individuals and groups in society. Social networks allow individuals to connect and share information, while shared norms and values serve as guidelines for interaction. In addition, the principle of reciprocity and support strengthens social solidarity, and trust is a key element in building stable and sustainable relationships.Meanwhile, the utilization of social capital reflects how these elements of perception are applied in social life. Inclusive participation allows people from various backgrounds to contribute to life together, while conflict resolution is carried out through trust-based dialogue and mediation mechanisms. In addition, social capital is utilized in facilitating interfaith cooperation and strengthening social cohesion through various community programs. The trust that has been formed is also continuously strengthened so that society can live side by side peacefully and inclusively. With a balance between perception and utilization of social capital, society can build harmonious social interactions and strengthen social resilience in facing various challenges of diversity.The existence of social capital in this village encourages various forms of interfaith cooperation, both in economic, educational, and social activities. Through social capital, the community can resolve conflicts peacefully by prioritizing dialogue and deliberation. In addition, social capital also allows the community to participate in inclusive decision-making so that each religious group feels that they have the same role in building a harmonious community. The effective use of social capital in Sidodadi Village has been proven to strengthen social cohesion and create community resilience in facing various challenges. Peaceful coexistence in the long term is the result of the sustainable use of social capital. This success not only has an impact on the social aspect but also the economic and political stability of the community.The elements of social capital that form inclusivity and harmonious life in the Religious Moderation Village are closely related to the active involvement of the community. Inclusive participation in various social and religious activities strengthens interfaith interactions so that no group feels marginalized. Collective action in dealing with social issues also further strengthens social ties, creating a sense of unity in diversity.Community involvement in maintaining inclusivity is realized through various activities that accommodate religious and cultural differences. For example, the celebration of religious holidays attended by various religious groups reflects solidarity and a sense of togetherness. Participation in joint economic activities is also a form of cooperation that strengthens social relations. In addition to active participation, the social characteristics of the Sidodadi Village community also play a role in maintaining the sustainability of a harmonious life. Solidarity between residents creates strong emotional bonds so that each individual feels part of a larger community. Inclusive leadership, both from religious leaders and the local government, also ensures that each group has space to voice their opinions and contribute to social life.

Figure 4. Elements of Social Capital

Source: Data Processed by Researchers, 2024

The chart above shows the elements of social capital which are divided into two main categories, namely internal elements and external elements. Internal elements include factors that come from within the community itself, such as trust and solidarity, leadership, community involvement and pride, and social resilience. Trust and solidarity are the basis for building harmonious relationships between community members, while leadership plays a role in directing the community towards inclusiveness and closer cooperation. Active community involvement in various social activities and pride in the diversity in their environment also contribute to strengthening social ties. In addition, social resilience is an important aspect in facing various challenges that can disrupt community harmony. On the other hand, external elements of social capital consist of social networks, cultural integration, and the principle of reciprocity. Social networks allow communities to build broader relationships outside their communities, creating opportunities for more effective collaboration and information exchange. Cultural integration helps to strengthen understanding and tolerance of differences, preventing social conflicts that are rooted in differences in values and traditions. The principle of reciprocity, where each individual in society supports and benefits each other, ensures that social capital can continue to grow and be maintained in the long term. With the balance between these internal and external elements, the community can create an inclusive and harmonious environment sustainably.Pride in diversity is one of the factors that maintain social harmony. The people of Sidodadi Village not only accept differences but also consider diversity as a cultural wealth that needs to be preserved. Thus, social capital not only plays a role in forming harmonious interfaith interactions but also in maintaining the sustainability of a stable and dynamic inclusive society. The existence of strong social capital allows the community to overcome various social challenges, such as interfaith conflicts, economic disparities, and external influences that can disrupt social harmony. By continuing to strengthen the existing elements of social capital, the community can ensure that inclusivity and harmony can last in the long term.Overall, the meaning of social capital in interfaith interactions in the Moderation Religious Village lies in its role as a social glue that enables cooperation, dialogue, and harmonious life. Trust, reciprocity, shared values, and social networks form a solid foundation for the community to develop positive interactions. With the right use of social capital, the community can not only maintain harmony but also improve the quality of life as a whole.

CONCLUSION
The conclusion of this study confirms that social capital has a fundamental role in building and maintaining harmony and inclusivity in interfaith communities in the Moderation Religious Village. Community initiatives, the role of interfaith forums, and inclusive decision-making are the main pillars of strengthening social cohesion. Policy support and funding from the government further strengthen the sustainability of programs that foster unity through social activities, inclusive education, cultural understanding, and strong religious leadership. When social capital is utilized effectively through active community participation, collective action, and supportive policies, interfaith trust, solidarity, and

sustainable peaceful coexistence will be formed. This allows communities to face social and economic challenges with more resilience while strengthening harmonious social structures amidst diversity.

On the other hand, the sustainability of an inclusive society cannot be separated from various challenges such as religious stereotypes, economic disparities, and external influences that can hinder social harmony. To overcome these obstacles, communities implement various strategies such as educational programs that instill values of inclusivity, community-based economic empowerment, mobilization of local resources, and intergenerational dialogue that strengthens shared understanding. In addition, strengthening community leadership, cultural integration in social practices, and collaboration with external parties are supporting factors in maintaining a harmonious social life. Thus, social capital not only functions as a glue in interfaith social interactions but also as a foundation for an inclusive society that is adaptive and sustainable in facing future challenges.

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