



The Contribution of Inclusive Theology to Religious Pluralism Among Indonesian Christians

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the contribution of inclusive theology in enhancing the understanding of religious pluralism among Indonesian Christians. The background of this research is the complexity of religious diversity in Indonesia and the importance of fostering interfaith harmony. This study aims to: (1) understand the experiences and perceptions of Christians regarding religious pluralism, (2) analyze the contribution of inclusive theology in enhancing the understanding of religious pluralism among Indonesian Christians, and (3) formulate the practical implications of inclusive theology in strengthening religious pluralism within the Christian community in Indonesia. Using a literature study method with a qualitative approach, this research examines the role of inclusive theology in fostering comprehension and acceptance of religious pluralism. The findings indicate that inclusive theology plays a crucial role in constructing a more open theological framework, cultivating values of tolerance, and strengthening the church's role in fostering interfaith relationships. The practical implications of this study include the integration of inclusive theological education, interfaith dialogue, and social justice advocacy. By understanding and applying the principles of inclusive theology, Christian communities can contribute to building a more harmonious and tolerant society.

Keywords: Inclusive theology; religious pluralism; Indonesian Christianity; tolerance; interfaith dialogue.

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INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is one of the most religiously diverse countries in the world, officially recognizing multiple religions, including Christianity. This diversity necessitates a culture of harmony and tolerance among its citizens to maintain social cohesion. The foundation of this harmony lies in understanding and embracing religious pluralism, which acknowledges and respects the existence of various beliefs and religious traditions. Pancasila, the philosophical foundation of Indonesia, plays a crucial role in fostering pluralism by promoting mutual respect and unity despite ideological differences (Vayen Limpele, 2023). The fluctuating religious tolerance index in Indonesia highlights the importance of continuous efforts to strengthen interfaith harmony. This can be achieved by implementing local wisdom and actively involving socio-religious institutions (Vayen Limpele, 2023).

Understanding and practicing religious pluralism in Indonesia, particularly within Christian communities, is essential for nurturing social harmony and interfaith tolerance in a nation characterized by significant religious and cultural diversity. Indonesia's pluralistic society, grounded in the principles of Pancasila, emphasizes the importance

of unity amidst diversity, which serves as the foundation for national cohesion (Vayen Limpele, 2023). Inclusive theology within Christianity plays a pivotal role in this context by encouraging interfaith inclusion, dialogue, and mutual understanding. This approach motivates Christians to recognize and respect religious diversity, not only within their own community but also among other religious groups, thereby fostering a culture of acceptance and mutual respect (Mojau & Nanuru, 2022).

The Bible emphasizes that Christians are called to navigate this pluralistic environment in alignment with biblical teachings that advocate tolerance and respect. For example, 1 Peter 2:11-17 underscores the necessity for Christians to lead righteous lives and abstain from fleshly desires, setting a positive example within a diverse society. Additionally, historical interpretations of biblical texts, such as Acts 17:23-25, reveal that the church must grow in accordance with God's purposes while embracing religious tolerance, as demonstrated by Paul's approach in Athens (Witoro, 2022). This theological foundation is crucial for cultivating an inclusive society. Furthermore, Christians are encouraged to actively participate in interfaith dialogue and activities that promote coexistence and mutual respect, contributing to national unity and integrity (Arifianto et al., 2022).

Education also plays a fundamental role in this endeavor. The pillars of pluralistic education authority, identity, and reality highlight the significance of faith, humanity, and freedom in Christian education (Suardana & Darmawan, 2022). By embracing these principles, Christians can contribute to building a harmonious and secure society, reflecting their commitment to God's Word and national unity. Therefore, a deep understanding of shared interfaith values is essential for Indonesian Christians to maintain their religious identity while fostering an inclusive and harmonious society.

This study aims to contribute to enhancing religious pluralism awareness among Indonesian Christians by addressing the current gap in the literature, which predominantly focuses on other religions or broader interfaith contexts. It seeks to provide a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of religious pluralism by integrating the principles of inclusive theology within Christian communities and aligning them with Pancasila.

The study on the contribution of inclusive theology to improving the understanding of religious pluralism among Indonesian Christians is unique as it explores the intersection between religious education, social harmony, and national ideology within a highly pluralistic context. Although Indonesia, founded on the principles of Pancasila, inherently supports religious pluralism, there remains a visible tendency toward exclusivism among religious groups, including Christians. The novelty of this study lies in its comprehensive approach to integrating inclusive theology into Christian education to enhance the understanding and practice of religious pluralism. By doing so, it aims to contribute to a more cohesive and tolerant Indonesian society.

Based on the background discussed above, this study seeks to address the following research questions:

1. How do Indonesian Christians experience and perceive religious pluralism?
2. What is the contribution of inclusive theology in enhancing the understanding of religious pluralism among Indonesian Christians?
3. What are the practical implications of inclusive theology in fostering a deeper understanding of religious pluralism within Christian communities?

This study aims to: Examine the experiences and perceptions of Indonesian Christians regarding religious pluralism. Analyze the contribution of inclusive theology in improving the understanding of religious pluralism within the Indonesian Christian community.

Formulate practical implications of inclusive theology for enhancing religious pluralism awareness among Indonesian Christians. This study seeks to enrich the academic discourse on theology and religious pluralism by providing a deeper theoretical understanding of how inclusive theology can be applied within the Christian context in Indonesia. The findings will contribute to the growing body of literature on theological inclusivism and its role in fostering interfaith understanding and social harmony.

The results of this study will provide practical guidelines for Christian religious leaders, pastors, and preachers in Indonesia to promote interfaith dialogue and improve tolerance among religious communities. By integrating inclusive theology into Christian education and religious practices, this research aims to equip Christian leaders with effective strategies for engaging in interfaith interactions, thereby fostering peaceful coexistence in Indonesian society.

RESEARCH METHOD

The researcher employs a qualitative research method through a literature review or descriptive method for this article, where the researcher studies and analyzes documents related to the topic and subsequently develops them to derive answers or conclusions about the research topic. The sources of information used include documents, references, findings from similar studies, newspaper articles, and various other sources related to the issue being investigated (Nurul, 2015).

Qualitative research is conducted to build knowledge through understanding and discovery. The qualitative research approach is a process of inquiry and comprehension based on methods that investigate social phenomena and human issues. In this study, the researcher constructs a complex depiction, examines textual data, provides detailed reports on respondents' perspectives, and conducts studies in natural settings. Qualitative research is carried out in natural conditions and is exploratory in nature. In qualitative research, the researcher serves as the key instrument (Iskandar, 2005). Therefore, the researcher must possess a solid theoretical foundation and broad insight to formulate questions, analyze, and construct a clearer understanding of the research object. This research emphasizes meaning and is value-laden.

The essence of qualitative research lies in observing individuals in their living environments, interacting with them, striving to understand their language and interpretations of the surrounding world, and engaging with individuals related to the research focus. The objective is to comprehend, explore their perspectives and experiences, and gather the necessary information or data. In qualitative research, the researcher acts as the primary instrument in data collection and interpretation.

Library research (literature review, literature research) is a study that critically examines and questions the information, ideas, or findings contained within scientific literature and formulates theoretical and methodological contributions to a specific topic (Cooper et al., 2011). A literature review enables researchers to develop a systematic analytical framework, collect and evaluate various relevant sources, including theological texts, scholarly articles, books, and research reports that examine inclusive theology and the state of religious pluralism in Indonesia. The sources of information include documents, references, findings from previous studies, newspaper articles, and various other sources relevant to the issue under investigation.

The stages of the literature study begin with analyzing the role of inclusive theology in enhancing the understanding of religious pluralism among Indonesian Christians. Subsequently, it involves reviewing previous literature and studies to obtain relevant information aligned with the research topic. From data reduction,

classification, and verification, the researcher employs these stages to uncover facts and research findings, which are then summarized into a conclusion describing the contribution of inclusive theology to fostering religious pluralism among Indonesian Christians. Thus, this literature study methodology provides a strong foundation for understanding and analyzing the role of inclusive theology in Indonesia's complex and diverse religious context.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The recognition of the importance of understanding religious pluralism in Indonesia is crucial in the context of a multireligious and multicultural society. Christians, as one of the significant religious communities in Indonesia, face the challenge of understanding and responding to this diversity in an inclusive and harmonious manner. The development of inclusive theology in this context offers a perspective that supports inclusion, tolerance, and interfaith dialogue as an integral part of Christian faith practice. However, to effectively implement inclusive theology, it is essential to deeply understand the experiences and perceptions of Christians regarding religious pluralism in Indonesia. This will pave the way for identifying the practical implications of inclusive theology in enhancing the understanding of religious pluralism and establishing a framework that supports Christians in addressing the challenges of this dynamic pluralistic context.

The Concept of Inclusive Theology in the Christian Context

Inclusive theology in the Christian context is a complex approach aimed at integrating and accepting all individuals and groups within the faith community, in alignment with Christ's inclusive ministry. This theology emphasizes the use of inclusive language to counter identity crises and promote spiritual well-being among marginalized groups, including women and individuals with diverse sexual orientations (Vermeulen, 2016). Inclusivity seeks to neutralize societal disadvantages and encourage effective integration within both the church and the broader community (Vermeulen, 2016). Social ministry highlights the importance of reaching out to the marginalized such as the poor, the homeless, and the socially excluded demonstrating God's compassion and fostering an inclusive ecclesiology (Przygoda, 2020).

Furthermore, inclusive theology entails a dual commitment for Christians: to uphold their faith while engaging cooperatively with the world to address its challenges, promote trust, and drive societal transformation through non-threatening, inclusive collaboration (Przygoda, 2020). This approach also addresses the marginalization experienced by emerging adults within church communities, illustrating that inclusivity can transform these experiences into opportunities for intergenerational inclusive communities, thereby preventing the lasting wounds of exclusion (Przygoda, 2020). Collectively, these perspectives depict inclusive theology as not merely a doctrinal inclusiveness but also a practical and compassionate engagement with all members of society, fostering a holistic and transformative Christian witness.

Inclusive theology among Christians emphasizes several key principles that promote inclusion and tolerance. One fundamental principle is the recognition of *imago Dei*, which affirms that all individuals are created in the image of God and are therefore equally deserving of respect and dignity, regardless of their abilities or disabilities (Hedges-Goettl, 2002). This theological perspective is further enriched by the concept of the Body of Christ, as articulated in 1 Corinthians 12, which underscores that every member of the church has unique spiritual gifts and roles that contribute to the overall health and function of the community (Brock, 2011). This inclusive model

challenges traditional sociological and demographic certainties while advocating for a deeper discernment within a religious context that values the contributions of each individual beyond physical or intellectual limitations.

Additionally, the practice of inclusive theology involves critical reflection on the experience of physical limitations as part of the human experience. It encourages the church to fully integrate individuals, regardless of physical ability, into the community, reflecting Jesus' healing mission that restores individuals to communal life (MDiv, 2001). Theological discourse, supported by practice, continually engages with and challenges church practices to ensure they reflect God's redemptive actions and promote transformative inclusion (Schaeffer & Tamminga, 2022).

Moreover, within inclusive theology, inclusive religious education plays a vital role in fostering tolerance by teaching Christians to view religion as a source of meaning and by promoting values of pluralism and an affirmative attitude toward religious and cultural diversity. By integrating these principles, inclusive theology not only addresses the spiritual and communal needs of marginalized individuals but also cultivates a more tolerant and unified Christian community.

Religious Pluralism in Indonesia: Challenges and Realities

Religious pluralism in Indonesia is characterized by the complex interaction between diverse religious, ethnic, and cultural beliefs, which are deeply embedded in the nation's social structure. This pluralism is not merely a theoretical concept but a lived reality, as evidenced by the harmonious coexistence of various religious communities, fostering mutual respect and cooperation (Saehu & Muchtar, 2023). The concept of religious pluralism in Indonesia is also significantly influenced by the principles of *Pancasila*, which serve as a common foundation for various religious and cultural groups, promoting a sense of unity and national identity despite differences (*Christianity Amidst Plurality: An Analysis of 1 Peter 2:11-17*, 2023). Pluralism acknowledges the diversity of ethnic groups, languages, and religions as a reality recognized by God, thereby encouraging a more inclusive and tolerant religious outlook.

Moreover, the practice of religious pluralism in Indonesia is essential for maintaining social harmony and preventing conflict, as it promotes tolerance, dialogue, and understanding among different religious communities. Overall, religious pluralism in Indonesia is a dynamic and multifaceted phenomenon that plays a crucial role in shaping the nation's social and cultural landscape, fostering peace and unity amidst diversity.

Building Awareness of Religious Pluralism in Christian Communities

Building awareness of religious pluralism within Christian communities presents both significant challenges and opportunities. One of the primary challenges is the deeply rooted theological dogma and absolute truth claims held by many religions, including Christianity, which can create resistance to pluralistic ideas (Hariprabowo, 2018). Additionally, the increasing diversity within Christianity itself, with its various denominations and traditions, further complicates the dialogue and mutual understanding necessary for pluralism (Körs et al., 2020). However, this diversity also offers opportunities for interfaith dialogue, which is seen as a crucial tool for fostering mutual recognition and peaceful coexistence in pluralistic societies (Körs et al., 2020).

The concept of religious pluralism, which asserts that all religions have intrinsic value and encourages religious tolerance, can help reduce conflict and promote peace if properly embraced (Asadu et al., 2020). The pluralistic approach requires Christian communities to adopt the virtues of tolerance and dialogue, which can

enhance the relevance and growth of the church in a pluralistic context (Asadu et al., 2020). Furthermore, moral pluralism in Christian ethics can provide a framework for education and formation that respects diverse moral perspectives, thereby enriching ethical discourse within Christian communities (Weaver, 2020).

The urgency of interfaith dialogue is underscored by the need to identify shared values such as justice, compassion, and peace, which are essential for the betterment of human society (Hariprabowo, 2018). Ultimately, the dichotomous nature of humanity, with both material and spiritual dimensions, necessitates interfaith dialogue that can offer comprehensive answers to existential questions, thereby deepening society's understanding of the human soul and its path to eternity (Petrov, 2022).

Thus, while building awareness of religious pluralism within Christian communities is fraught with challenges, it also holds great promise for fostering more inclusive, peaceful, and ethically enriched communities. This inclusive attitude is also reflected in Christian teachings, which emphasize living righteously and harmoniously in a pluralistic society, as highlighted in 1 Peter 2:11-17, urging Christians to respect and coexist peacefully with those of different faiths (*Christianity Amidst Plurality: An Analysis of 1 Peter 2:11-17*, 2023).

Christian Perspectives on Religious Pluralism in Indonesia

Christians in Indonesia perceive religious pluralism as a complex reality, shaped by the country's rich multicultural and multi-religious structure. In urban centers such as Jakarta, Surabaya, and Medan, Christians frequently interact with individuals from various religious backgrounds in their daily lives, which can enhance their understanding of different religious beliefs and practices (Hidayat et al., 2023). Participation in interfaith events and activities is a significant aspect of their experience, as many Christians engage in interreligious dialogues, religious seminars, and social initiatives with other religious communities. These interactions provide opportunities to expand social networks and deepen their appreciation of religious pluralism (Sudhiarsa, 2023). However, challenges remain, particularly in overcoming limited understanding or negative stereotypes, which can hinder the development of deeper relationships with people of other faiths (Tanggok, 2023).

Indonesia's sociopolitical context, governed by *Pancasila*, promotes religious tolerance and inclusivity. However, Christians, particularly as a minority, sometimes find themselves distanced from broader social interactions due to exclusivity in religious practices (Kusuma, 2023). The principle of *divinely inspired cultural harmony*, which emphasizes respect for various beliefs and religions as well as the importance of peace and tolerance, is crucial in fostering harmonious coexistence (F. I. Widjaja, 2019). Additionally, Christian participation in traditional and religious rituals alongside Muslim communities, as observed in Maluku, highlights the potential for interfaith harmony through kinship and shared cultural practices.

Despite these efforts, social conflicts may arise due to misinterpretations of religious texts and the lack of effective social structures to manage religious differences, underscoring the need for strong conflict resolution mechanisms and unbiased frameworks to promote peace. The perception and appreciation of cultural diversity, supported by interfaith synergy and *Pancasila* principles, are essential in fostering a sense of unity within Indonesia's pluralistic society. Furthermore, the development of pluralistic religious education, aimed at shaping open-minded and tolerant students, contributes significantly to a more inclusive society.

The legal complexities surrounding interfaith marriage also reflect broader challenges in religious pluralism, where administrative recognition does not always align with religious and legal validation, indicating areas that require greater clarity and inclusivity. Overall, Christians in Indonesia experience religious diversity as an integral

part of their lives, actively participating in interfaith initiatives while facing challenges that require ongoing efforts to cultivate mutual respect and understanding as a religious minority in the country. Inclusive theology in Christianity significantly enhances the understanding of religious pluralism by promoting a more open and accepting approach toward diverse religious traditions. Theological perspectives, such as those proposed by Alan Race, reconcile exclusive views that salvation is only through Jesus Christ with pluralist perspectives that recognize the legitimacy of all religions. This approach acknowledges the possibility of salvation through general revelation, thereby valuing other religious traditions (Pasaribu, 2023). Inclusive theology plays a crucial role in fostering mutual respect and tolerance, emphasizing anti-discrimination and a love-centered curriculum to prevent religious radicalism (Pasaribu, 2023). It aligns with *Pancasila*, Indonesia's national ideology, which inherently supports religious inclusivity, as emphasized by Gus Dur, a prominent Indonesian leader, who regarded inclusivism as key to social harmony and interfaith coexistence (Promoting Inclusive Education Through Gus Dur's Understanding of Pancasila as a Principle of Religious Life in Indonesia, 2023).

In a pluralistic society like Indonesia, where diverse religious, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds coexist, integrating inclusive theological principles broadens Christian understanding of religious pluralism and contributes to a more harmonious and just society. Some key contributions of inclusive theology include:

Developing an Inclusive Theological Framework

Inclusive theology, emphasizing the universality of God's salvation and appreciation for religious and cultural diversity, encourages interfaith dialogue and cooperation. Various forms of dialogue seminars, workshops, group discussions, and joint activities help foster mutual understanding, respect, and solidarity among diverse communities (Zulaikhah & Misbah, 2023). Inclusive religious education challenges prejudices and stereotypes, promoting critical theological reflection and social critique against religious injustice and discrimination (Cebotaru et al., 2022). Additionally, collaboration in social and humanitarian efforts strengthens interfaith relations and peacebuilding initiatives.

Promoting Tolerance, Empathy, and Mutual Respect

Inclusive theology nurtures values of tolerance, empathy, and mutual respect by providing a framework for understanding and embracing diverse beliefs and practices. Tolerance involves respecting the rights and beliefs of others, while empathy fosters understanding and peaceful coexistence. These values can be cultivated through education, family influence, and media, shaping individuals to engage constructively in interfaith interactions (Filipović et al., 2022). Educational programs emphasizing empathetic communication help Christians understand the perspectives and emotions of those from different religious backgrounds (Rosa et al., 2022). Furthermore, civic education and interfaith discussions reinforce respect for diversity and social harmony.

Strengthening the Role of Churches and Christian Communities

Churches and Christian communities play a vital role in promoting religious pluralism by fostering an inclusive and peaceful environment. They serve as centers for education and transformation, instilling values of tolerance and respect through sermons, Bible studies, and educational programs on inclusive theology (Kusuma, 2023). Churches can also host interfaith dialogues and community outreach programs, strengthening relationships with other religious groups (M. F. Thahir, 2023). Collaborative humanitarian and social initiatives further reinforce

interfaith solidarity and social justice, preventing religious radicalism (M. F. Thahir, 2023). By embracing inclusive education models, churches become agents of change, advocating for diversity and peace.

Challenging Religious Prejudice and Discrimination

Inclusive theology fosters a critical stance against religious prejudice and discrimination, which are major contributors to social tensions and conflicts. Religious bias often requires intensive intervention, as seen in educational programs promoting diversity in Israel, which improved minority relations by encouraging perspective-taking and addressing sensitive topics (Zulaikhah & Misbah, 2023). Religious discrimination can also lead to human rights violations, such as restrictions on worship, expression, and education (Citaristi, 2022). By advocating for interfaith competence and tolerance in education, inclusive theology mitigates religious prejudice, human rights violations, and social injustice, fostering a fairer and more harmonious society.

Practical Implications of Inclusive Theology for Christian Pluralism

In the increasingly complex context of religious diversity in Indonesia, understanding inclusive theology has profound and practical implications for Christians. Inclusive theology goes beyond merely acknowledging religious differences; it also inspires concrete actions that deepen interfaith cooperation, promote respectful dialogue, and foster inclusive social solidarity. Amid the challenges of creating interreligious harmony and addressing social issues that transcend religious boundaries, this approach reinforces a commitment to building a society based on human dignity and the universal values of love and justice. Therefore, a deeper understanding and practical implementation of inclusive theology among Indonesian Christians are not only relevant but also essential in achieving a vision of a peaceful society coexisting within this rich spiritual diversity.

Intercultural and Interreligious Education

Intercultural and interreligious education is a crucial step in fostering an understanding of religious pluralism among Indonesian Christians. Given Indonesia's cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity, inclusive education about other religions within church and Christian school environments can significantly enhance understanding and appreciation of different beliefs, encouraging tolerance and mutual respect. For instance, incorporating respect, dialogue, and collaboration among religious adherents into interfaith education curricula is essential (Gaudiawan et al., 2023).

This initiative aligns with broader multicultural education goals, aiming to instill core values such as democracy, humanism, and pluralism in students, fostering an appreciation for inclusive diversity (Implementation of Multicultural Education in SD Negeri Empang Bahagia 3 Tangerang City, 2023). Additionally, multicultural education has been recognized in Indonesia as an effective means to manage national diversity, minimize conflicts, and promote a synergistic approach to national progress (A. Thahir, 2023). The necessity of such education is further underscored by the need to counteract rising intolerance in society, as highlighted in studies advocating for a multi-religious, dialogical, and open-minded approach to the future of religious education in Indonesia (Chandra, 2023).

Furthermore, the concept of inclusive religious education, emphasizing anti-discrimination, tolerance, and mutual respect, serves as an adaptable model for Christian education in preventing religious radicalism and promoting a love-oriented, inclusive curriculum (Zulaikhah & Misbah, 2023). Schools also play a crucial role in developing multicultural education, preparing students to navigate a diverse society by instilling tolerance and the

ability to collaborate despite differences (Kumalasari, 2023). This holistic educational approach is necessary to build a more harmonious and inclusive future, encouraging students to respect and accept others while preventing character assassination, cultural confrontations, and discrimination (Suardana & Darmawan, 2023).

The urgency of implementing multicultural education in Indonesia is reinforced by the national motto, *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* (Unity in Diversity), which underlines the importance of managing diversity for national unity and progress. However, challenges remain in fully realizing this vision, as some schools have yet to develop a comprehensive attitude of tolerance (Suardana & Darmawan, 2023). By addressing these challenges and promoting intercultural and interreligious education, Christian students can gain broader and more empathetic perspectives on others, fostering mutual respect and interfaith cooperation in building a more harmonious and inclusive society. This approach not only prepares future generations for life and work in an increasingly multicultural world but also contributes to the overall goal of creating a more inclusive and tolerant Indonesian society.

Integrating Inclusive Theology in Theological Education

Integrating inclusive theology into Christian theological education is a crucial step in fostering a comprehensive understanding of religious diversity among future theologians and church leaders. This approach encourages theology students to study fundamental concepts of inclusive theology and explore their practical applications in daily life. An inclusive curriculum includes comparative religious studies, interfaith ethics, and the history of interreligious dialogue, aiming to enrich students' perspectives and strengthen their commitment to harmony and tolerance.

Theological education, particularly in Christian institutions, can significantly contribute to inclusivity by integrating social practices that promote inclusive nationalism and character formation (P. S. Widjaja, 2021). For example, the Faculty of Theology at Duta Wacana Christian University exemplifies how intentional social practices within theological schools can foster an inclusive national identity (P. S. Widjaja, 2021). Additionally, inclusive religious education has demonstrated its effectiveness in preventing religious radicalism by promoting anti-discrimination, tolerance, and mutual respect, which can be aligned with Christian theological education to achieve similar outcomes (Zulaikhah & Misbah, 2023).

Similarly, the development of religious education curricula in Indonesian theological education highlights the importance of understanding religious teachings, worship practices, ethics, and morality, despite challenges such as student diversity and social change (Kumalasari, 2023). The need for inclusive education further benefits all students, supporting full participation in society and addressing obstacles such as staff training and funding. By integrating these diverse perspectives and strategies, graduates of theological education will not only have a deep understanding of their own faith traditions but will also be equipped to appreciate and engage positively with other religious traditions, contributing to a more harmonious and tolerant society.

Constructive Interreligious Dialogue

Constructive interreligious dialogue is essential in fostering a strong understanding of religious pluralism among Indonesian Christians, and the Church can play a central role in these efforts. By promoting deeper and more structured dialogue, the Church can serve as a meeting point for interfaith encounters, providing a safe and open environment where individuals from different religions can share their experiences, perspectives, and spiritual

values. This approach aligns with the principles of religious moderation and the importance of maintaining fraternity to build harmony and peace (Azisi et al., 2023).

Furthermore, the Church's role in facilitating such dialogue includes emphasizing fraternity and social friendship as foundational elements for interfaith dialogue, viewing religious differences as opportunities for mutual understanding rather than challenges (Tinambunan, 2022). Additionally, churches can organize dialogue events that respect differences and strengthen interfaith friendships, incorporating recommendations for reconciliation, friendship, and theological dialogue based on biblical passages (Yosia, 2022).

Within Indonesia's political context, where religious issues significantly influence politics, fostering interfaith dialogue is crucial, particularly during election periods, to prevent the misuse of religion as a political tool and to promote peaceful politics (Yosia, 2022). Moreover, churches can utilize effective communication methods, robust conflict resolution mechanisms, and create conducive environments for integration to promote peaceful outcomes and collective unity among diverse religious groups (M. F. Thahir, 2023).

Advocacy for Justice

Christian advocacy for social justice in Indonesia, as a demonstration of inclusive theology, involves several key aspects that enhance the understanding of religious pluralism among Indonesian Christians. First, the Church must act as a sacrament of God's presence, aiming to restore the dignity of victims and perpetrators of injustice while engaging in dialogue and collaboration with people of other faiths to address social injustices such as corruption and poverty (Utomo, 2023). This approach aligns with Pancasila's principles, which emphasize social justice as a God-oriented, community-centered movement requiring public awareness and engagement for social transformation.

Inclusive theology also promotes educational reforms in religious education, emphasizing anti-discrimination, tolerance, and mutual respect, which can serve as a model for Christian education to prevent religious radicalism and foster a pluralist-inclusive orientation (Zulaikhah & Misbah, 2023). In practice, Christian communities must demonstrate the effectiveness of an inclusive religious perspective, where harmonious and tolerant interfaith relationships are achieved through inclusive attitudes and culturally ingrained practices (Religious Inclusivism: Islam, Christian, and Hindu Relations in Besowo Kediri East Java, 2023).

Furthermore, the concept of work in Indonesia, viewed from the perspective of spiritual and social justice, underscores the importance of labor beyond mere economic gain, highlighting responsibilities toward family, society, and the nation, which align with broader social justice goals for all workers (Sunaryo, 2023). By integrating these aspects, inclusive theology encourages Christians to actively participate in social issues, working collaboratively across religious boundaries to achieve shared goals and enhance social justice within Indonesian society.

CONCLUSION

Inclusive theology plays a crucial role in enhancing the understanding of religious pluralism among Indonesian Christians by emphasizing love, forgiveness, and respect for human dignity as fundamental Christian values. In the Indonesian context, where religious diversity presents both challenges and opportunities, inclusive theology fosters peaceful and respectful relationships with people of other faiths as an expression of Christ's universal love. Given Indonesia's complex religious landscape, an inclusive approach is essential not only to

acknowledge differences but also to celebrate the spiritual richness within society. While Indonesian Christians encounter various challenges, such as stereotypes and discrimination, many view religious diversity as a means to deepen their faith and promote cooperation in building a better society. Inclusive theology contributes significantly to addressing these challenges by encouraging social collaboration, constructive interfaith dialogue, and advocacy for justice. Its practical implementation in Christian education, church activities, and interfaith initiatives strengthens interreligious relations and promotes peace, ultimately shaping a more inclusive and just society.

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