

## Implementation of the Principle of Divinity in the Spirit of Mutual Cooperation in the Organization of Student Associations Majoring in Mechanical Engineering at Medan State University as a Form of Religious Moderation. To Strengthen Religious Harmony Religious Harmony in Indonesia

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### Abstract

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The importance of implementing the principle of divinity in the spirit of gotong royong as a form of religious moderation in order to strengthen religious harmony in Indonesia. This reflects the challenges of religious harmony in the midst of religious diversity in Indonesia. The research method applied in this study involves the use of questionnaires distributed to members of the Mechanical Engineering Department Student Association at Medan State University as many as 15 respondents. This approach is designed to collect relevant data and this study aims to analyze the correlation between the level of understanding of the principle of divinity and the effectiveness of its implementation in the spirit of gotong royong, as well as its impact on religious harmony within the Medan State University at the Mechanical Engineering Department Student Association.

### Keywords:

Divinity, Gotong Royong, and Religious Moderation

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## INTRODUCTION

Pancasila, as the ideology of the Indonesian state, contains basic values and concepts that are reflected in more detail in the attitudes, actions, and characteristics of Indonesian society. (Syamsudin, 2017) In addition, religious diversity is one of the important aspects of diversity in Indonesia. This is evident through the existence of a number of "mainstream" religions respected by Indonesian society including Muslims, Christians, Catholics, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism as well as other religions or beliefs adopted by some Indonesians. Therefore, the State has the obligation to provide freedom to all religious adherents and believers to carry out their respective ritual activities until they do so causing division in society (Arrasid, 2023).

Indonesia is a country with diverse religions and cultures. However, like other countries in the world, Indonesia also faces challenges in maintaining inter-religious harmony. One of the main challenges is religious conflicts that sometimes



arise due to differences in beliefs. For example, inter-religious conflicts in some regions, such as the conflict between religious groups in Maluku in 1999-2002, are clear examples of how inter-religious tensions can affect social stability." (Indrawan and Putri 2022)

In addition, there is also the issue of religious intolerance, where a minority of individuals or groups tend to restrict the rights of individuals based on their own religious beliefs. Examples are incidents of discrimination against religious minorities or certain faith groups. Another challenge is the growth of religious radicalism, which can lead to extremism and acts of violence. Some extremist groups seek to capitalize on this situation to spread radical ideologies that contradict the values of nationhood and tolerance embraced by the majority of Indonesians.

In this era of rapid modernization, Indonesia as a country with diverse religions and cultures faces considerable challenges in maintaining religious harmony. Religious moderation is a pillar of nationality and diversity in Indonesia (Faiz n.d.). Medan State University as one of the higher education institutions in Indonesia has a strategic role in shaping the character and outlook on life of students from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds. Student organizations have the potential to be an effective forum for spreading religious principles in students' daily lives.

Religious moderation is reflected in a national commitment that upholds diversity, tolerance that respects differences in beliefs, rejection of extremism and radicalism (Dr. Akhmad Syahri 2021). Therefore, it is important to understand how the Medan State University Mechanical Engineering Department Student Association can apply a very important principle in the spirit of mutual cooperation as a form of adaptation to social, economic and cultural changes. Gotong royong as a manifestation of inter-religious harmony can also be an important instrument in the implementation of non-violent religious moderation (Jakarta 2021).

In this context, the concept of "Implementation of the Principle of Divinity in the Spirit of Mutual Cooperation in the Medan State University Mechanical Engineering Department Student Association Organization as a Form of Religious Moderation to Strengthen Religious Harmony in Indonesia" seems to be a relevant issue. The principle of divinity reflects an understanding of human relationships with God, while the spirit of mutual cooperation reflects the spirit of collaboration and solidarity in helping others and tolerance in religion. Therefore, strengthening religious moderation can basically be interpreted as an effort to harmonize the relationship between religion and the state. (RI 2020)

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

The research location is Medan State University, with the research informants being members of the Management Department Student Association. The research location at the Management Student Association at Medan State University is a supportive environment for learning the values of mutual cooperation and togetherness, as well as strengthening character education and moral values. In addition, this location is also suitable for studying how religious beliefs can motivate positive and constructive actions, and how the values of gotong royong are reflected in Pancasila and can be implemented in daily life.

The sources of information used in this research are literature and articles relevant to the research topic. And this research focuses on the implementation of the principle of divinity in the spirit of gotong royong as a form of religious moderation to strengthen religious harmony in Indonesia, especially in the organization of the Mechanical Engineering Department Student Association at Medan State University. This research involved students as respondents, and data were collected through questionnaires distributed in the form of Google Forms containing questions related to the topic under study.

The method used to collect data was by using a questionnaire given to members of the Student Association. This approach has proven effective in collecting relevant data and allowed us to explore the research participants' understanding and views on the implementation of the principle of God in the spirit of gotong royong as a means of strengthening religious harmony in Indonesia. The questionnaire developed has been carefully compiled and considers various aspects related to the theme of this research. Through this questionnaire, it is expected to explore the thoughts, perceptions, and experiences of respondents related to important issues in the context of religious moderation in Indonesia. The questionnaire method gives us the opportunity to collect data on a broader scale and in a systematic manner. The results of this data analysis will provide valuable insights in understanding the impact of the implementation of the principle of God in the spirit of gotong royong on religious harmony in a diverse Indonesian society. We are committed to maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of all information provided by respondents.

The data analysis technique used in this research is descriptive analysis. This research aims to analyze the implementation of the principle of divinity in the spirit of gotong royong as a form of religious moderation that can strengthen religious harmony in Indonesia, especially in the context of the Student Association organization at Medan State University. In analyzing the data, we will use tables and graphs as tools to facilitate understanding of the research results. The data obtained from the questionnaire will be statistically analyzed to produce a clear picture of the implementation of the principle of divinity in the spirit of gotong royong in the Student Association organization at Medan State University.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This study analyzes the data obtained in making a questionnaire of Pancasila education with the title "Implementation of the Principle of God in the Spirit of Gotong Royong in the Student Association of Mechanical Engineering Department of Medan State University as a Form of Religious Moderation to Strengthen Religious Harmony in Indonesia." The questionnaire was given to the Student Association of Mechanical Engineering Department of Medan State University. There are several things that can be used as guidelines in compiling data acquisition. The following is the accumulated percentage of questions presented to the Mechanical Engineering Department Student Association, namely as follows:

Tabel1. Data obtained  
From the Mechanical Engineering Department Student Association

Question	Agree	Disagree	Undecided
I often participate in gotong royong activities organized by the Mechanical Engineering Student Association of Medan State University.	94,1 %	5,9 %	-
I feel that gotong royong has an important role in strengthening religious harmony in the community.	94,1 %	5,9 %	-
I feel that religion-based mutual cooperation can be a form of religious moderation in the campus environment.	94,1 %	-	5,9 %
The principles of divinity are very relevant in the context of mutual cooperation activities.	100 %	-	-
I feel that the Mechanical Engineering Student Association supports the integration of Godly principles in gotong royong activities well.	82,4 %	-	17,6 %
Faith-based mutual cooperation activities help in promoting religious tolerance and harmony among students.	100 %	-	--
The implementation of the principle of divinity in mutual cooperation has a positive impact on strengthening religious harmony among students.	100 %	-	-
I believe that faith-based mutual cooperation helps prevent potential religious conflicts on campus.	94,1 %	-	5,9 %
I believe that religious moderation through gotong royong is the right step to strengthen religious harmony in Indonesia.	88,2 %	-	11,8 %
I feel that religious harmony is important for Indonesia's social and cultural progress.	94,1 %	-	5,9 %
<b>Accumulated Percentage</b>	<b>94,1%</b>	<b>5,9 %</b>	<b>10,30%</b>

The analysis results of this study showed some significant conclusions. The majority of respondents (94.1%) revealed that they actively participated in gotong royong activities organized by the Mechanical Engineering Department Student Association of Medan State University. This indicates a strong commitment to the practice of gotong royong in the campus environment. In addition, the majority of respondents (94.1%) also believed that gotong royong has an important role in strengthening religious harmony in the community. This reflects a good understanding of the values of solidarity and unity contained in the practice of gotong royong.

The data also showed significant support (94.1%) for the idea that faith-based mutual cooperation can be a form of religious moderation on campus. This indicates an awareness of the importance of an inclusive and tolerant approach in student activities. The principles of divinity were also considered highly relevant in the context of gotong royong activities, with 100% agreement. This confirms the importance of incorporating religious values in the practice of gotong royong.

Most respondents (82.4%) also felt that the Mechanical Engineering Student Association supports the integration of Godly principles in gotong royong activities well. This suggests that the organization has an important role in encouraging

inclusive mutual aid practices. One of the other positive outcomes is that faith-based mutual aid activities help in promoting religious tolerance and harmony among students (100%). This shows that faith-based mutual aid can be an effective means of building interfaith understanding and openness. The positive impact of implementing the principle of Godhead in gotong royong was also strongly emphasized, with 100% of respondents agreeing. This confirms the positive contribution of religious values in strengthening religious harmony among university students.

The majority of respondents (94.1%) also believe that faith-based mutual aid can help prevent potential religious conflict on campus. This confirms the conflict prevention role played by the practice of gotong royong. Finally, the majority of respondents (88.2%) felt that religious moderation through gotong royong is the right step to strengthen religious harmony in Indonesia. This reflects an awareness of the importance of a moderate approach to building interfaith relations in the country.

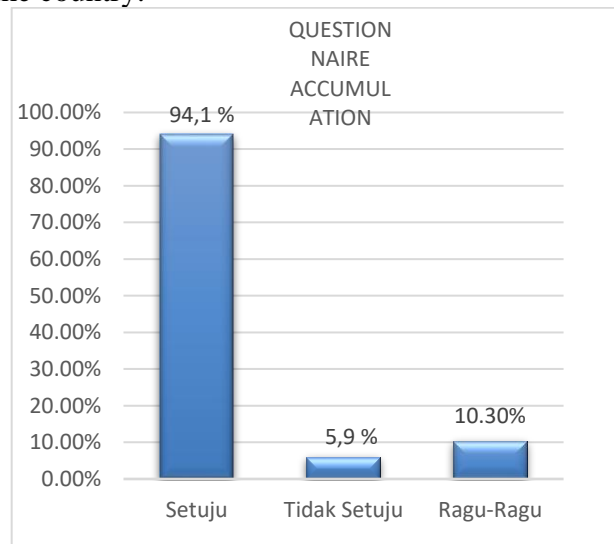


Figure 1. Bar Graph of Accumulated Data

The results of this analysis show that the implementation of the principle of Godhead in gotong royong in the campus environment can play an important role in strengthening religious harmony in Indonesia and preventing potential religious conflicts. This is in line with the understanding of the importance of religious harmony for Indonesia's social and cultural progress, which received strong support from the majority of respondents (94.1%). This research shows the correspondence between the implementation of the principles of Godhead in the practice of gotong royong in the campus environment with the concept of relevant theories. There are several theories that can be linked to the findings in this study. First, the theory of active participation, which describes the majority of respondents who actively participate in gotong royong activities, is in line with the theory of participation in social activities that contribute to the development of religious harmony.

The results of this analysis connect the research findings with several theories that have strong relevance. The theory of active participation, which describes the majority of respondents who are actively involved in gotong royong

activities, supports the concept of participation in social activities playing a role in the development of religious harmony. Then, the theory of social solidarity and unity emerges through the majority of respondents' belief that gotong royong has an important role in strengthening religious harmony. This reflects a strong understanding of the values of solidarity and unity contained in the practice of gotong royong.

The theoretical framework of social solidarity and unity, the majority of respondents' belief that gotong royong has an important role in strengthening religious harmony reinforces the understanding of the values of solidarity and unity that emerge in the practice of gotong royong. Significant support for the idea that faith-based gotong royong can be a form of religious moderation reflects an understanding of the theory of religious moderation and the inclusive approach to building interfaith tolerance.

The theory of religious values was also confirmed through a strong understanding of the relevance of the principles of divinity in the context of gotong royong activities. This shows the importance of incorporating religious values in the practice of gotong royong as a moral foundation. Furthermore, there are organizational implications, with the majority of respondents believing that the Mechanical Engineering Student Association supports the integration of Godly principles in gotong royong activities. This reflects the importance of organizations in facilitating inclusive mutual aid practices. The finding that faith-based mutual aid activities can promote religious tolerance and harmony supports social interaction theory and how such practices build interfaith understanding and openness.

The importance of implementing the Divine Principle in gotong royong to strengthen religious harmony is in line with religious conflict prevention theory, which emphasizes the importance of practices that prevent potential conflict. Finally, the realization of the importance of religious moderation in strengthening religious harmony in Indonesia reflects moderation theory and the importance of a moderate approach in building interfaith relations in the country.

This research supports theories that underscore the importance of faith-based gotong royong in strengthening religious harmony and preventing religious conflict, which is consistent with an understanding of the importance of religious harmony for Indonesia's social and cultural progress. Then, the theory of social solidarity and unity emerges through the majority of respondents' belief that gotong royong has an important role in strengthening religious harmony. This reflects a strong understanding of the values of solidarity and unity embodied in the practice of gotong royong. In addition, significant support for the idea that faith-based gotong royong can be a form of religious moderation on campus reflects an understanding of the theory of religious moderation and the inclusive approach to building tolerance between religions.

The theory of religious values was also confirmed through a strong understanding of the relevance of the principles of divinity in the context of gotong royong activities. This shows the importance of incorporating religious values in the practice of gotong royong as a moral foundation. Furthermore, there are organizational implications, with the majority of respondents believing that the Mechanical Engineering Student Association supports the integration of Godly

principles in gotong royong activities. This reflects the importance of organizations in facilitating inclusive mutual aid practices. The finding that faith-based mutual aid activities can promote religious tolerance and harmony supports social interaction theory and how such practices build interfaith understanding and openness. The importance of implementing the Divine Principle in gotong royong to strengthen religious harmony is in line with religious conflict prevention theory, which emphasizes the importance of practices that prevent potential conflict.

## **CONCLUSION**

The analytical results of the study show that the practice of faith-based gotong royong in the campus environment, particularly by the Student Association of Mechanical Engineering Department of Medan State University, has significant implications for religious harmony and understanding of religious values. The majority of respondents showed a strong commitment to this practice of gotong royong, and they also believe that gotong royong has an important role in strengthening religious harmony in society.

In addition, the findings of this study support several relevant theories. The theories of active participation, social solidarity, unity, religious moderation, religious values and religious conflict prevention can all be linked to the research results. This shows that the practice of faith-based mutual cooperation on campus can be an effective instrument in building interfaith tolerance, preventing religious conflict, and strengthening religious harmony.

This research also underlines the important role of organizations, in this case the Mechanical Engineering Student Association, in supporting the integration of Divine principles in gotong royong activities. This suggests that organizations play a key role in facilitating inclusive gotong royong practices and promoting religious tolerance and harmony among students.

Awareness of the importance of religious moderation in strengthening religious harmony in Indonesia is strongly emphasized, and this is in line with moderation theory and a moderate approach to building interfaith relations in the country. Thus, this study confirms that faith-based gotong royong practices on campus have a positive impact on religious harmony, and the integration of religious values in these practices plays an important role in achieving this goal.

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