



The Role of Religion in the Formation of the Identity of the Aur Birugo Community of Bukittinggi City

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to explore the role of religion, particularly Islam, in shaping the identity of the Aur Birugo community in Bukittinggi Regency. We employed a qualitative research method, utilizing in-depth interviews, participatory observation, and document analysis as tools to gather data. The results of the research indicate that religion, specifically Islam, has a significant impact on shaping the identity of the Aur Birugo community. Religious values such as honesty, social care, and solidarity have become integral parts of the community's social norms. Religious institutions like mosques and Islamic boarding schools play a crucial role in educating the younger generation and preserving religious traditions. Traditional ceremonies and religious celebrations are also inseparable aspects of the Aur Birugo community's culture. While religion has played a vital role in maintaining the community's cultural identity, this research also identifies challenges in facing inter-religious conflicts and the influence of modern social changes. In adapting to the changing times, the Aur Birugo community continues to strive to preserve its religious and cultural roots while adapting to the dynamics of a rapidly evolving global society. This research contributes to understanding how religion serves as a strong social bond while dealing with the dynamics of social and cultural development in Bukittinggi Regency.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The formation of community identity is a multifaceted process influenced by various factors, including religion (Warraich, 2023). Although the role of religion in identity formation may vary depending on the context, it remains an important factor in shaping individual and collective identity (Schnabel & Hjerm, 2014). This refers to a sense of group membership towards a religion and the importance of this group membership in relation to a person's self-concept (King, 2019). In the past, religion tended to play a greater role in identity formation, but in modern society, its influence is less than in the past (Wilson, 2016). This shows that the role of religion in identity formation depends on context and can change over time (Halevy & Gross, 2024). In America, factors such as gender, ethnicity, and generational status are known to influence levels of

religious identity, with women, ethnic minorities, and first- and second-generation immigrants tending to have higher levels of religious identity (Herbert, 2017).

Religion is one of several global influences on the process of forming a community's identity (Beyer, 2013). Religion has played a central role in shaping community identity in various regions, including in Aur Birugo, Bukittinggi. In a multicultural environment like Indonesia, religion is often at the core of the values and social norms that shape people's identity (Rahman, 2020). The history of the Aur Birugo community in Bukittinggi City shows the strong influence of religion in the formation of their identity. Since colonial times, Islam has been the majority religion in this area. In the process of Islamization that has been going on for centuries, this religion has become one of the key elements in shaping the culture and traditions of the Aur Birugo people. Islamic values, such as honesty, social concern, and solidarity, have become the moral foundation for this society (Prozesky, 2006).

In addition, religious institutions, such as mosques and Islamic boarding schools, play an important role in educating the younger generation and preserving religious traditions (Rahman, 2021). Through religious instruction, the younger generation of Aur Birugo is taught Islamic values and how to apply them in everyday life. This is what makes religion continue to be a strong factor in shaping the behavior and attitudes of the people of Aur Birugo. In terms of culture, religion also has a significant impact. Traditional ceremonies and religious celebrations such as Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, and commemoration of important days in Islam are an integral part of the life of the Aur Birugo community. People celebrate these events with great enthusiasm, wearing traditional clothing, and participating in various social activities. This is an important moment in maintaining and celebrating their cultural identity which is closely related to religion (Wahyu, 2010).

Religion also plays a role in regulating the social and moral norms of society. Religious views on ethics, morality, and social relationships influence how the people of Aur Birugo interact and behave. Values such as mutual aid, mutual respect, and avoiding actions considered sinful in Islam, such as stealing or lying, are an important part of the social norms that are widely accepted in this community. However, the role of religion in forming the identity of the Aur Birugo community also has a complex side. Although religion is often a unifying factor, in some cases, differences in religious beliefs can lead to conflict. Aur Birugo is an area that is not only inhabited by Muslims, but there are also other religions adhered to by the people of Aur Birugo. Religious differences, especially in the context of religious diversity in Aur Birugo, can be a source of tension and conflict (Abdullah, 2007). Departing from the description above, the focus of this discussion is to find out the role of religion in forming community identity in Aur Birugo, Bukittinggi City and what challenges are faced in maintaining harmony and harmony between religious communities in Aur Birugo.

2. METHOD

This research uses field research methods or field research, which takes the form of qualitative research. In this research, field data was collected and analyzed from various field data sources obtained from a series of observation and interview activities carried out during the research. This research focuses on the role of religion in forming community identity in Aur Birugo, Bukittinggi City and the challenges faced in maintaining harmony and harmony between religious communities in Aur Birugo. In this research, a comprehensive review of previous research, books, journal articles and theoretical sources relevant to this topic was also carried out. The theory used in this research is social identity theory. This research has a descriptive research style, where descriptive research is able to produce good patterns regarding the situation of several groups in a valid manner (Moleong, 1990).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Role of Religion in Forming the Identity of the Aur Birugo Community

The Influence of Religion on Values and Ethics

Religion has played a strong role in shaping the values and ethics of the Aur Birugo community in Bukittinggi City. The values instilled by religion, especially Islam, have become the core of culture and social norms in the region. In everyday life, religious values guide the behavior and attitudes of the Aur Birugo people. One of the main values influenced by religion is honesty. In Islamic teachings, honesty is a highly valued principle. This value influences the people of Aur Birugo, and honesty is

the foundation of their daily interactions. Apart from that, social concern is also an important value influenced by religion in Aur Birugo. Islam teaches the importance of helping others, especially those in need. The people of Aur Birugo responded to this call with a strong attitude of concern for their community members. They share resources, provide assistance to those in need, and carry out social practices aimed at strengthening feelings of solidarity (Interview with Hanifah, housewife, September 24, 2023).

In the social norms adhered to by the Aur Birugo community, religion also influences ethics in various aspects of life. Marriage, as one example, is an institution influenced by religious teachings. Weddings in the Aur Birugo culture often involve religious processions aimed at obtaining blessings and approval from God. Religion guides how marriage should be carried out, including the rights and obligations of husband and wife, as well as how to raise children. In terms of education, religion also plays an important role in shaping ethics. Islamic boarding schools, as religious educational institutions, are places where the younger generation of Aur Birugo receive religious and moral education. Through teaching at Islamic boarding schools, values such as discipline, honesty and compassion are taught to students. This creates a young generation that has a deep understanding of religion and a strong level of morality (Appadurai, 1990).

Culture and Religious Traditions

Culture and religious traditions in Aur Birugo have a very important role in shaping community identity. Religion, especially Islam, has provided the foundation for various aspects of culture and traditions in the region. One striking aspect is the culture of religious celebrations. The people of Aur Birugo celebrate various religious events with great fervor and enthusiasm. One of the most striking celebrations is Eid al-Fitr, which is an important occasion for Muslims around the world. This celebration is a time to reunite with family and friends, and the people of Aur Birugo celebrate it with great joy. Apart from that, there are also other religious celebrations, such as Eid al-Adha, which emphasize the importance of sacrifice and social solidarity. This tradition reflects the religious values taught in Islam and provides an opportunity for the people of Aur Birugo to practice their beliefs. These celebrations are also moments to maintain religious traditions and strengthen social ties in society.

Religion also influences various aspects of the culture of the Aur Birugo people, including art, music, and dance. Fine art and sculpture often have motifs inspired by religion. Historic buildings, such as old mosques, are often examples of architectural art influenced by Islam. Music and dance in the Aur Birugo culture also often have lyrics or movements related to religious values. The culture of gratitude is also an important part of the daily life of the Aur Birugo people. The people of Aur Birugo are taught to always be grateful to God for all the good fortune and blessings given to them. This tradition of gratitude is reflected in various aspects of life, including food, clothing and other daily actions. This creates a culture that really values gratitude and is rooted in religious teachings (Interview with Rekafitri, female university student, September 23, 2023).

Religious Institutions in Society

Religious institutions, such as mosques and Islamic boarding schools, play an important role in shaping the identity of the Aur Birugo community. The mosque is the center of religious activity in this region. The people of Aur Birugo gather at the mosque to pray, discuss religious teachings, and carry out various social and religious activities. The mosque is also a place to learn Islamic teachings, both for children and adults. Religious leaders in mosques have an important role in educating the public about religious values and ethics that must be followed in everyday life. Islamic boarding schools also have a significant impact in shaping the religious identity of the Aur Birugo community. Islamic boarding schools are Islamic religious educational institutions that provide formal and informal education. The younger generation of Aur Birugo attends Islamic boarding schools to study the Qur'an, hadith, and other Islamic teachings. Apart from that, they are also taught ethics, morality and ways of living in accordance with religion. Islamic boarding schools help ensure that religious values are passed on to future generations.

Not only does it function as a place to study, Islamic boarding schools also play a role in maintaining religious traditions. The Islamic boarding school is the center of religious celebrations and a gathering place for the Aur Birugo community to celebrate important religious events. This creates strong social bonds among community members and ensures that religious traditions are preserved. Apart from

mosques and Islamic boarding schools, religious leaders or religious figures also play an important role in the Aur Birugo community. They provide spiritual guidance, resolve conflicts in society, and act as mediators on social and religious issues. Religious leaders are respected and recognized by society as important pillars in maintaining religious values and ethics.

Maintaining the Religious Identity of the Aur Birugo Community

Interreligious Conflict

Interreligious conflict is one of the challenges faced by the Aur Birugo community in maintaining harmony in a religious context. Although the Aur Birugo community has long been known for its inter-religious tolerance, it cannot be denied that inter-religious conflicts sometimes arise. Various factors, including differences in religious interpretation, social competition, or political factors can trigger this conflict. Differences in religious beliefs and practices sometimes produce tensions in society. Interreligious conflicts can range from verbal confrontations to more serious physical clashes. This can threaten social harmony and cause uncertainty in society (Durkheim, 1912). It is important for the people of Aur Birugo to continue to promote interfaith dialogue, understand differences, and find ways to resolve conflicts peacefully. Religious leaders and community leaders play an important role in mediating interreligious conflicts and ensuring that tolerance is maintained (Interview with Abdillah, head of the village, September 22, 2023).

Challenges in Maintaining Religious Identity in the Modern Era

The modern era brings its own challenges in maintaining religious identity in the Aur Birugo community. Globalization and technological developments have brought significant changes in the way society interacts and adapts to the outside world. This can influence how people carry out their religious practices and maintain religious traditions. One of the challenges in the modern era is the influence of mass media and pop culture. Advances in information technology have brought information and entertainment from various cultures into the homes of the people of Aur Birugo. This can raise questions about how local religious and cultural values can remain relevant in the face of global cultural influences coming from outside (Interview with Abdillah, head of the village, September 22, 2023).

Apart from that, the challenge in the modern era is how the Aur Birugo community can face social developments that may conflict with religious teachings. For example, changes in lifestyle, social values, or ethics that develop in modern society can give rise to incompatibility with more traditional religious teachings. The people of Aur Birugo need to find a balance between maintaining their religious values and adapting to modern dynamics. The next challenge faced is how the Aur Birugo community can overcome economic and educational challenges in the modern era. Societies that are more connected to the outside world may be faced with pressure to change and adapt to evolving economic demands. This can influence religious practices and local traditions (Interview with Hanifah, housewife, September 24, 2023).

Adaptation to Social Change

Adaptation to social change is one aspect that cannot be avoided in the development of the Aur Birugo community. Social change is a natural part of the evolution of society, and the people of Aur Birugo are no exception. In the modern era, social change occurs quickly and can affect various aspects of life, including religious and cultural identity. The people of Aur Birugo are faced with the challenging task of maintaining their religious values and traditions while adapting to ongoing social changes. One of the significant social changes is the influence of mass media and information technology (Nasr, 2009). Technological advances have brought information and entertainment from around the world into the homes of the people of Aur Birugo. This can influence the way they view the world and their religion. The influence of mass media and the internet can also introduce different views on religion and morality. Apart from that, social change also includes changes in social and economic structures. The Aur Birugo community may face pressure to adapt to changes in work patterns, income and living standards. These changes can affect the way they carry out religious practices and traditions. In facing these challenges, the people of Aur Birugo need to find a balance between maintaining their religious values and meeting economic and social demands (Interview with Abdillah, head of village, September 22, 2023).

Efforts of the Aur Birugo Community in Maintaining Religious Identity

The people of Aur Birugo have long faced various religious challenges in maintaining their identity. Although religion plays an important role in shaping their identity, these communities have also tried diligently

to overcome the various challenges that have come their way. These efforts reflect the commitment of the Aur Birugo people in maintaining and strengthening their religious values while adapting to changing times and evolving social realities. One of the main efforts of the Aur Birugo community in overcoming religious challenges is through religious education. Religious education plays an important role in providing the younger generation with a deep understanding of the teachings of their religion. Islamic boarding schools in this area are religious education institutions that provide formal and informal training. The younger generation of Aur Birugo attends Islamic boarding schools to study the Qur'an, hadith, and other Islamic teachings. They are also taught ethics, morality and ways of living in accordance with religion. This religious education helps maintain and transmit religious values to future generations.

Apart from religious education, the Aur Birugo community also promotes interfaith dialogue. In an atmosphere full of tolerance, they carry out dialogue with other religious communities in the region. Interreligious dialogue is a means of understanding differences and promoting interfaith harmony. This helps overcome potential inter-religious conflicts and maintain social harmony. Furthermore, the Aur Birugo community also seeks to understand changes in social and ethical norms that may conflict with the teachings of their religion. They not only practice religious values but also try to understand how religious values can be applied in a changing social context. This understanding allows them to find a balance between maintaining their religious values and meeting growing social demands (Interview with Rekafitri, female university student, September 23, 2023).

The use of social media and information technology has also become an important tool in the Aur Birugo community's efforts to overcome religious challenges. They use media platforms to spread positive messages and religious values. This helps combat potentially damaging information and promotes a deeper understanding of religion. Social media is also used as a means to promote interfaith tolerance and harmony. Additionally, religious leaders and community leaders have a key role in the Aur Birugo community's efforts to overcome religious challenges. They provide moral and ethical guidance relevant to religion while recognizing the reality of social change. Religious leaders can also act as mediators in resolving social or ethnic conflicts that may arise in a religious context. With their deep insight into local religion and culture, they are a source of inspiration and guidance in facing religious challenges (Beyers, 2017).

In the face of social change and religious challenges, the Aur Birugo people's efforts to maintain their religious identity reflect not only their commitment to religious values but also their desire to ensure that these values are passed on to future generations. Through religious education, interfaith dialogue, and collaboration with religious leaders, the Aur Birugo community has tried diligently to overcome the various challenges that have come their way. This effort reflects their strong commitment to maintaining their religious identity as an integral part of their cultural and social identity (Kippen, 2008).

Social and Cultural Implications

The role of religion in shaping Aur Birugo's identity has a significant impact on the social and cultural aspects of their lives. The social and cultural implications of the role of religion reflect how religion is not only the main pillar in forming identity, but also plays a role in shaping social structures, social norms, art and culture, as well as interreligious relations in the Aur Birugo community. One of the most striking social implications is how religion plays a role as a social glue in Aur Birugo society. Religion, especially Islam, has become a bond that unites various elements of society. The people of Aur Birugo share the same religious beliefs, and this creates a sense of unity and solidarity among them. Religion allows them to celebrate religious festivals together, share religious traditions, and feel a strong sense of belonging. This creates close social relations among members of the Aur Birugo community and creates harmony in the community.

Religion also has a deep impact on the social norms of the Aur Birugo community. Religious teachings regulate the behavior and ethics that are upheld in this society. Values such as honesty, mutual assistance and social care are the foundation of the social interactions of the Aur Birugo community. Religion also teaches the importance of being grateful and caring for fellow humans. In practice, this creates a society that has high ethics and acts in accordance with their religious values. Social norms based on religion create a social environment full of goodness and morality. The cultural implications of the role of religion are also visible in religious practices and local traditions. The Aur Birugo people carry out religious traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation. They celebrate

religious festivals, such as Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, with great enthusiasm and seriousness. This reflects their respect for their cultural heritage and religious traditions. Religion maintains these traditions and ensures that religious values are well enshrined in daily practices (Interview with Hanifah, housewife, September 24, 2023).

The social and cultural implications of the role of religion also include interfaith harmony in the Aur Birugo community. Although the majority of Aur Birugo people embrace Islam, there are religious minorities such as Christians and Confucians. These minority religions also have a respected place in Aur Birugo society. Religion becomes a bridge to understanding differences and promoting interfaith tolerance. Harmonious interaction between religious communities contributes to harmony and respected diversity. In facing social changes and religious challenges, the Aur Birugo community has succeeded in maintaining harmonious social relations between religions. They understand that interfaith tolerance is an important part of their cultural and social identity. Religion is not only a differentiator but also a bridge to understanding differences in diverse societies (Aripudin et al., 2022).

The situation in the Aur Birugo community shows that the process of forming a community's identity is complex and influenced by a number of variables, including religion. Religion continues to have a significant part in forming both individual and community identities, even though its exact role in identity development varies depending on the situation (Whitney & King, 2014). This speaks to a person's sense of belonging to a religious group and how significant that group membership is to their self-concept (Turner-Zwinkels et al., 2015). While religion used to have a bigger influence on the creation of identities, this is no longer the case in current society (Haynes, 2020). This demonstrates how religion's influence on the development of identity is situational and subject to change (Jenkins et al., 2018). Special in the Aur Birugo community, the formation of social identity seems to be closely related to religion (Hopkins, 2011; Oppong, 2013). Religion here appears very central as a form of social identity.

4. CONCLUSION

The role of religion in shaping the identity of the Aur Birugo people of Bukittinggi City cannot be taken lightly. Religion, especially Islam, has become the main pillar in shaping their cultural and social identity. Through religious education, ethical values, and religious practices, religion has played a central role in guiding the daily lives of the people of Aur Birugo. Their identity as a community with strong religious beliefs and local culture continues to be diligently maintained. The role of religion also covers various social and cultural aspects in Aur Birugo society. Religion is a social bond that unites society in harmony and harmony. Religious values such as honesty, mutual assistance, and social concern form deep social norms in everyday interactions. Religion is also a source of inspiration in art and culture, creating art that exudes religious values and religious traditions. Although religion plays a strong role in shaping the identity of the Aur Birugo people, social and cultural challenges also arise. Rapid social change, global cultural influences, and economic pressures can influence how they carry out religious practices and traditions.

The Aur Birugo community has undertaken thoughtful efforts to face this challenge. Religious education, interfaith dialogue, the role of religious leaders, and the use of social media are tools used to maintain and strengthen religious values while adapting to changing times. In order to maintain their cultural and social identity, the Aur Birugo people have proven that religion is not only a source of spiritual strength, but also a foundation for living a meaningful and ethical daily life. The role of religion in shaping the identity of the Aur Birugo people remains a strong pillar that guides them through modern dynamics and changing times. Awareness of the importance of religion in shaping their cultural and social identity has confirmed their commitment to safeguarding their religious values and ensuring that religion continues to be a guiding light in their rich and varied lives.

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