
PESANTREN AS A PILLAR OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION DEVELOPMENT IN INDONESIA

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Pesantren
Islamic civilization
education
development
Indonesia

Article history:

Received 2021-08-14

Revised 2021-11-12

Accepted 2022-01-17

ABSTRACT

This article discusses the role of pesantren as a primary pillar in the development of Islamic civilization in Indonesia. Pesantren is a traditional educational institution that has played a crucial role in shaping and preserving Islamic civilization amidst the changing times. This research aims to analyze the contributions of pesantren in building Islamic civilization and the factors that influence the role of pesantren in the Indonesian context. The research methodology used in this study is literature review, collecting data from various reliable sources such as books, journal articles, and related research reports. In its analysis, this article identifies several key factors that make pesantren a pillar in the development of Islamic civilization in Indonesia. These factors include an educational curriculum based on Islamic values, the role of kyai (religious educators) as spiritual and intellectual leaders, and the social bonds and solidarity within the pesantren community. The results of the study indicate that pesantren plays a significant role in the development of Islamic civilization in Indonesia. Pesantren not only focuses on religious aspects but also provides holistic education involving academic, social, and moral dimensions. Pesantren serves as a place where students, known as santri, can develop their Islamic personalities and gain a deep understanding of Islamic teachings.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Pesantren is a traditional educational institution in Indonesia that has played an important role in the development of Islamic civilization in this country. Since centuries ago, pesantren have been the center of education and the spread of Islamic teachings in various regions in Indonesia. In its development, pesantren not only function as religious education institutions, but also have a broad role in shaping and maintaining Islamic civilization in the midst of changing times and the challenges of modernization. The social, economic, and political changes that have occurred in Indonesia since the colonial era until today have affected the role and contribution of pesantren in the development of Islamic civilization. In the face of these dynamics, it is important to further examine the contribution of pesantren in building Islamic civilization and the factors that influence its role in the Indonesian context (Abdullah, 2014).

As the main pillar in the development of Islamic civilization, pesantren have a number of factors that distinguish them from other educational institutions. The pesantren education curriculum is based on rich Islamic values, covering religious, social, moral, and academic aspects. In addition, the role of kyai as a religious educator, spiritual leader, and intellectual in pesantren is also an important factor in shaping Islamic civilization in Indonesia. In the context of heterogeneous Indonesia, pesantren also have strong social ties and community solidarity, which is the basis for the sustainability of the role of pesantren as a pillar of Islamic civilization development. Through interactions between santri, kyai, and the surrounding community, pesantren maintain a strong Islamic identity and play an important role in shaping individual character and morality (Sirojuddin, Ashlahuddin, & Aprilianto, 2022).

However, the role of pesantren in the development of Islamic civilization in Indonesia is also faced with a number of challenges. In the era of globalization and modernization, pesantren need to adapt to social and technological changes to remain relevant and effective in spreading Islamic values (Hakim & Hasan, 2019). By understanding the background and complexity of the role of pesantren in the development of Islamic civilization in Indonesia, we can appreciate the contribution of pesantren in preserving and enriching the nation's cultural and religious heritage and identify steps that need to be taken to ensure the continuity of the role of pesantren in the development of Islamic civilization in the future.

Pesantren is a traditional Islamic educational institution that has an important role in shaping Islamic civilization in Indonesia. Since the beginning of its arrival to the archipelago, pesantren has been a center for the development of Islamic science and spirituality. Pesantren not only teach religious teachings, but also shape the character and values that are fundamental to the Indonesian Muslim community. Along with the times, pesantren also experience changes and challenges in maintaining their relevance in an increasingly modern society (Ichwan, 2010).

This research aims to explore more deeply the role of pesantren as a pillar of Islamic civilization building in Indonesia, taking into account contemporary changes and challenges. This research proposes to see how pesantren can effectively contribute to building a dynamic and relevant Islamic civilization in the modern era. The focus of this study is to understand the strategies adopted by pesantren in maintaining the authenticity of religious teachings, while developing curriculum and learning methods that are responsive to the needs of the times.

The hypothesis of this study is that pesantren that are able to combine strong religious knowledge with innovative and adaptive educational approaches to changing times will have a more effective role in shaping Islamic civilization in Indonesia. Pesantren that successfully adapt well to social developments, technology, and community needs will be able to play a significant role in producing quality graduates, have noble character, and are able to make a positive contribution to society and the state.

The focus of the problem in this study is to analyze the contribution of pesantren as the main pillar in the development of Islamic civilization in Indonesia and the factors that influence the role of pesantren in that context. One of the problems that need to be understood is the extent to which pesantren make a real contribution to the development of Islamic civilization in Indonesia. This includes the role of pesantren in developing education based on Islamic values, building individual character and morality, and spreading a deep understanding of Islamic teachings. In addition, the factors that influence the role of pesantren are also an important focus of the problem to be identified. These factors can include the pesantren education curriculum, the role of kyai as a spiritual and intellectual leader, and the social ties and solidarity of the pesantren community that contribute to maintaining the sustainability of the role of pesantren in the development of Islamic civilization in Indonesia. By understanding and examining the focus of this problem, it is expected that solutions and recommendations can be found that can improve the role of pesantren in building Islamic civilization in Indonesia (Abdullah, 1984).

2. METHODS

In this research, the method used is literature study or library research. This method is carried out by collecting and analyzing data from various reliable sources such as books, journal articles, and

related research reports. Data analysis is focused on library research, by reading, studying, and reviewing literature and written sources related to the researched problem. Literature study allows researchers to gain a deep understanding of the research topic and analyze the contribution of pesantren in the development of Islamic civilization in Indonesia. Through this literature study method, this research aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the role of pesantren as a pillar of Islamic civilization development in Indonesia based on data analysis from relevant literature sources.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the research that has been conducted, there are several analytical results that show that pesantren can be a pillar of Islamic civilization development in Indonesia (Aswab, 2017).

1. Maintenance of Religious Values

Pesantren play an important role in the maintenance and dissemination of religious values in society. Research by Abdullah (2010) shows that pesantren are places that allow the younger generation to gain a deep understanding of the teachings of Islam. Pesantren are institutions that maintain the authenticity and integrity of religious teachings, and play a role in shaping strong character and morality in santri.

2. Education and Character Building

Pesantren also has a role in education and individual character building. Through the education provided, pesantren are able to form a generation that is noble, disciplined, and has strong religious values. Rahmanto (2015) research shows that pesantren have a curriculum that is oriented towards religious education and the deepening of Islamic knowledge. This helps santri to develop their Islamic knowledge while obtaining adequate general education.

3. Contribution to Society

Pesantren also make a significant contribution to society. Through the education provided, pesantren produce graduates who have a good understanding of Islam and the ability to apply these values in daily life. Graduates of pesantren are also involved in various social and community empowerment activities, such as local economic development, health services, and education in remote areas. This illustrates the role of pesantren in helping to build an inclusive and competitive civilization.

4. Adaptation to the Times

Pesantren that successfully adapt to the times and contemporary challenges also play an important role in the development of Islamic civilization in Indonesia. Research by Rahmanto (2015) shows that pesantren need to adopt educational approaches that are responsive to social and technological developments. In this context, pesantren need to integrate innovative learning methods and information technology to facilitate effective learning and prepare santri to face future challenges.

Thus, the results of the analysis of various literature references show that pesantren have the potential as pillars of Islamic civilization development in Indonesia. Pesantren play an important role in the maintenance of religious values, education and character building, contribution to society, and adaptation to the times. In this study, it will be further explained how pesantren can play a concrete role in the development of Islamic civilization in Indonesia with appropriate strategies and responsive to social and technological changes (Azra, 2006).

The results show that pesantren play a significant role in the development of Islamic civilization in Indonesia. In the context of education, pesantren implement curricula that focus on Islamic values, convey religious knowledge comprehensively, and encourage strong religious practices among santri. In addition, pesantren also engage santri in the development of academic, social, and leadership skills. The role of kyai in pesantren is crucial as a spiritual and intellectual leader who provides religious guidance to santri and promotes a deep understanding of Islamic teachings. Kyai is also in charge of

maintaining authentic Islamic traditions and helping santri face the challenges of modernization and globalization (Djamiluddin, 2010).

In addition to their role in education, pesantren also have an important role in building social ties and community solidarity. Through community life centered on pesantren, santri are invited to support each other, build close ties, and strengthen the values of togetherness in society. Thus, the results of this study show that pesantren are not only educational institutions that provide religious understanding, but also have a broad contribution in the development of Islamic civilization in Indonesia through the development of santri skills, the role of kyai as spiritual and intellectual leaders, and through the development of social ties and community solidarity in them.

Table 1
Research Findings on the Role of Islamic Boarding Schools in the Development of Islamic Civilization in Indonesia

No.	Findings
1.	Pesantren implement an Islamic values-based curriculum, teach comprehensive religious knowledge, and promote strong religious practices.
2.	The role of kyai as a spiritual and intellectual leader is very significant in building Islamic civilization in pesantren.
3.	Pesantren engage students in the development of academic, social, and leadership skills as part of holistic education.
4.	Kyai maintain authentic Islamic traditions and help santri in facing the challenges of modernization and globalization.
5.	Pesantren builds social bonds and community solidarity through community life centered on pesantren.
6.	Pesantren contributes to the development of the Islamic personality of students and a deep understanding of the teachings of Islam.
7.	Pesantren is an educational institution that not only focuses on religious aspects, but also provides holistic education that includes academic, social, and moral aspects.
8.	Pesantren students are actively involved in social and community activities that aim to strengthen the values of togetherness.

In research on the role of pesantren as a pillar of Islamic civilization development in Indonesia, some examples of teaching methods, curriculum structures, and educational strategies commonly used in pesantren are as follows (Effendy, 2012):

1. Teaching Method
 - a. Traditional Teaching Methods
Pesantren tend to use traditional teaching methods involving group discussions, lectures, and memorization of the Qur'an.
 - b. Approaches to Teaching Tafsir and Hadith
Pesantren often use a teaching approach that focuses on understanding the interpretation of the Qur'an and hadith, with the kyai as the main source of knowledge.
2. Curriculum Structure
 - a. Religious Curriculum
Pesantren have a strong curriculum in religion which includes learning the Qur'an, tafsir, hadith, fiqh (Islamic law), aqidah (Islamic faith), and Islamic history.
 - b. General Curriculum

In addition to the religious curriculum, the pesantren also provides a general curriculum that includes subjects such as math, Indonesian, English, science, and national history.

3. Education Strategy

a. Classical Teaching

Pesantren use a classical teaching strategy where the kyai lectures and teaches directly to the santri in large groups.

b. Group Discussion

Santri also engage in group discussions guided by the kyai or teacher to deepen religious understanding and build critical thinking skills.

c. Memorization of the Qur'an

Pesantren provides time and support for Qur'an memorization, where santri are encouraged to memorize and understand Qur'anic verses.

Kyai has a very important role in pesantren, including in providing lectures, teaching, counseling, and spiritual assistance to santri. The following is a further explanation of the kyai's role in this regard:

1. Lecture

Kyai often gives lectures to students and the pesantren community in general. These lectures aim to provide a deep understanding of religion, convey Islamic values, provide moral guidance, and motivate santri in practicing Islamic teachings properly.

2. Teaching

Kyais also serve as teachers in pesantren. They provide comprehensive teaching on various aspects of religion, including Qur'anic interpretation, hadith, fiqh, aqidah, Islamic history, and other religious sciences. Kyai use teaching methods that are in line with the pesantren tradition, such as classical teaching or group discussions.

3. Counseling

Kyai function as spiritual counselors for santri. They are ready to listen to santri problems and questions related to religion, personal life, or social issues. Kyai provide advice, guidance, and solutions based on religious views to help santri face challenges and conflicts in daily life.

4. Spiritual Assistance

Kyais play an important role in the spiritual mentoring of santri. They provide guidance in practicing worship, maintaining morality, and developing a deeper relationship with Allah SWT. Kyai also assist santri in understanding spiritual values and improving individual piety.

The role of kyai in providing lectures, teaching, counseling, and spiritual assistance is very important in shaping the character and religious life of santri. The kyai becomes a role model for santri in understanding and practicing Islamic teachings properly, as well as helping them in overcoming the challenges and difficulties they face (Fauzi, 2018).

Pesantren have a holistic approach to education by implementing an Islamic values-based curriculum. This curriculum includes comprehensive religious knowledge, including an understanding of the Qur'an, tafsir, hadith, fiqh, aqidah, and Islamic history. In pesantren, the importance of strong religious practices is also emphasized, such as prayer, fasting, and other practices. The role of kyai as spiritual and intellectual leaders in pesantren is very significant. They have in-depth knowledge of Islam and serve as role models for santri in practicing the teachings of Islam correctly. Kyai provides religious guidance, advice, and teaching to santri, as well as helping them in facing the challenges of modernization and globalization that can affect religious understanding.

Pesantren also involves santri in the development of academic, social, and leadership skills. In addition to mastering religious materials, santri are given the opportunity to develop skills in academic fields such as math, language, and science. They are also taught good social and ethical values and

given the opportunity to develop leadership skills through participation in pesantren activities. Kyai play an important role in maintaining the authentic Islamic tradition in pesantren and helping santri to face the challenges of modernization and globalization. They ensure that the Islamic teachings remain in accordance with authentic Islamic values and are relevant in the context of the times. Thus, pesantren become places that maintain and strengthen the Islamic identity of santri (Hasyim, 2015).

In addition, pesantren also build social ties and community solidarity through community life centered on the pesantren. Santris live together in dormitories and engage in various activities together, such as learning, worship, and social activities. This builds close relationships between santri and creates strong social ties within the pesantren community. Pesantren makes a significant contribution to the development of santri's Islamic personality and in-depth understanding of Islamic teachings. In addition to religious aspects, pesantren also provide holistic education that includes academic, social, and moral aspects. Thus, pesantren plays a role in forming students with integrity, noble character, and a deep understanding of Islamic teachings (Hosen, 2014).

Pesantren students are also actively involved in social and community activities. They are involved in charity activities, social services, and other humanitarian programs that aim to strengthen the values of togetherness, help the community, and have a positive impact on the environment around the pesantren. Thus, pesantren as Islamic educational institutions have a broad and important role in the development of Islamic civilization in Indonesia. Through a holistic educational approach, pesantren are able to produce a generation that is Islamic, has strong religious knowledge, and is involved in positive community development.

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be concluded that pesantren have a significant role as a pillar in the development of Islamic civilization in Indonesia. Through a holistic educational approach, pesantren are able to make diverse contributions in the development of santri. Pesantren implement an Islamic values-based curriculum, teach comprehensive religious knowledge, and promote strong religious practices. The role of kyai as a spiritual and intellectual leader is very important in guiding santri in understanding Islamic teachings and facing the challenges of modernization and globalization.

In addition to the religious aspect, pesantren also engage santri in the development of academic, social, and leadership skills. This helps santri to develop holistically and become individuals who have a positive contribution to society. Pesantren also maintain authentic Islamic traditions and build social bonds and community solidarity through pesantren-centered community life. This creates a supportive environment for the formation of an Islamic personality and strengthens the values of togetherness among santri.

Overall, pesantren as educational institutions do not only focus on religious aspects, but also provide holistic education that includes academic, social, and moral aspects. Pesantren make a significant contribution to the development of Islamic civilization in Indonesia by producing generations with integrity, noble character, and a deep understanding of Islamic teachings. Thus, pesantren play a crucial role in maintaining and strengthening Islamic identity and building a society based on religious values and togetherness.

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