

## **Building Harmony and Peace through Religious Education: SOCIAL PREJUDICE AND REBELIANCE BEHAVIOR OF STUDENTS IN MODERN ISLAMIC BOARDING SCHOOL GONTOR DARUSSALAM, EAST JAVA**

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**Abstrak:** Penelitian ini berangkat dari fakta bahwa, pondok pesantren selalunya dikaitkan dan bahkan diidentikan dengan berbagai bentuk pemikiran ekstrim dan tindakan radikal atas nama agama. Sehingga banyak kalangan ditengah-tengah masyarakat yang memiliki prasangka sosial terhadap keberadaan pondok pesantren. Sungguhpun demikian penelitian ini bertujuan melihat hubungan antara prasangka sosial dan perilaku memberontak dikalangan santri Pondok Pesantren Modern Gontor Darussalam (PMDG) di Jawa Timur. Tiga teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah : (1) Teori prasangka sosial. (2) Teori pemberontakan (khususnya dalam konteks remaja) mengingat para santri umumnya tergolong dalam kategori remaja. Populasi penelitian ini sebanyak 2067 orang santri. Sungguh demikian sampel dalam penelitian ini sebanyak 335 orang. Adapun formula yang digunakan untuk mengukur besaran ukuran sampel adalah :  $n = \frac{N}{1+e^2}$ . Penarikan sampel dilakukan menggunakan simple *stratified random sampling*. Adapun teknik pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan skala psikologi dan kuesioner serta studi dokumentasi. Sementara teknik analisa data dengan menggunakan *pearson correlation (product moment)* untuk melihat hubungan antara variabel. Hasil penelitian ini mendapati tidak adanya hubungan yang signifikan antara prasangka sosial dan perilaku memberontak dikalangan para santri di ponpes PMDG. Hal ini dibuktikan melalui perolehan nilai  $r_{hitung} = 0.328$ . dan  $t_{tabel} = 1,64$  serta  $p (value) = 0.90 > 0.05$ .

**Keywords:** *Prasangka Sosial, Perilaku Memberontak, Pondok Pesantren Moderen Darussalam Gontor dan Santri.*

## Introduction

We will agree if the people say that, “Indonesia is the most populous Muslim-majority nation in the world”, and is also home to significant religious minorities of Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, Confucians, and others. Indonesia has a long story of multicultural and cultural pluralism with the co-existence of many different religions. Actually, Islam teaches us that diversity is a fact of nature and it makes the nature beautiful. Allah SWT has created this whole universe with diversity. Allah SWT says in the Qur’an “ ...See you not that Allah sends down rain from the sky? With it We then bring out produce of various colors. And in the mountains are tracts white and red, of various shades of color, and black intense in hue. And so amongst men and crawling creatures and cattle, are they of various colors. Those truly fear Allah, among His Servants, who have knowledge: for Allah is Exalted in Might, Oft-Forgiving (Al Qur’an,: Fatir 35:27-28). There is diversity among human beings. They have variety of genders, colors and languages and multiplicity of races and tribes. These diversities are considered natural and are called “God’s signs” in the Qur’an<sup>1</sup>. They are indicative of God’s creative power and wisdom and are good and healthy since they endow human life with richness and beauty. Allah SWT wants human beings to derive benefit from this diversity and not to allow it to generate unhealthy schisms and divisions in their ranks. Allah SWT says in the Qur’an: “....And from amongst His signs is this that He created you from dust; and then behold you are humans scattered far and wide. Among His signs is this that He created for you mates from among yourselves that you may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between you. Verily in that are signs for those who reflect. And among His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the variations in your languages and colors; verily in that are signs for those who know.

The majority of Indonesian Muslims are Sunni; however there are significant populations of Shi’a Muslims (over one million) as well as some other sects, such as the Ahmadiyya sect and

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<sup>1</sup> Fahmi Reza, *The Correlation Between Character Building and Peaceful Thinking of Students in Darussalam Modern Islamic Boarding School in East Java*. (Mataram: Anual International Conference in Islamic Studies, 2013), p. 2

syncretist traditions. In some areas of Indonesia it is difficult to find accurate statistics on religious belief because people who do not identify as one of the six religions recognized by the government (Islam, Protestantism, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism as of 2006) go undocumented. For a more detailed breakdown of religious demography, refer to the US International Religious Freedom Report (2006)

Although Rasullulah Muhammad saw as a massangers of Allah SWT has been teaching us about how to implement of the religious tolerance and living in religious harmony. But, Islam does not consider all viewpoints correct or of equal value. However, it is also the fact well recognized in Islam that very often the differences of opinions (ikhtilaf) are also a token of God's mercy. If Allah SWT had so willed, says the Qur'an, He could have forced people to come together to one point, but he did not do so. Allah SWT did send His Prophets and Messengers from time to time so that the right path might be made clear through them. As regards the final judgment as to who followed the truth and who did not, that will be made known on the Day of Judgment by Allah SWT Himself. In keeping with this principle, Allah SWT forbade His Prophets and the believers from having recourse to coercion in religion. "There is no compulsion in religion", said the Qur'an (Al Qur'an, 2:256).

Otherwise, terrorism in Indonesia refer to acts of terrorism that take place within Indonesia or attacks on Indonesian people or interests aboard. These acts of terrorism often target the government of the Republic of Indonesia or foreigners in Indonesia, most notably Western visitors, especially those from the United States and Australia<sup>2</sup>

Based on the fact I would like to do a reserach about "Correlation Between Social Prejudice and Rebeliance Behavior of

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<sup>2</sup> Number of cases about the terrorism in Indonesia likes; Borobudur 1985 Jakarta Stock Exchange 2000 Philippine consulate 2000 Christmas Eve 2000 Bali 2002 Marriott Hotel 2003 Aceh 2003 Palopo 2004 Australian Embassy 2004 Poso 2004 Tentena 2005 Bali 2005 Palu 2005 Jakarta 2009 Cirebon 2011. Fahmi Reza, *The Correlation Between Character Building and Peaceful Thinking of Students in Darussalam Modern Islamic Boarding School in East Java* (Mataram: Anual International Conference in Islamic Studies 2013), p. 3.

Students” (Study at Darussalam Modern Islamic Boarding School in East Java). The real fact that we got from the news or public opinion said “Most of Islamic School was victimised produce of terrorist”. I.e.; Abrar Haque, 43, the volunteer administrator of Cleveland’s Al-Ihsan School of Excellence, was arrested on money-laundering charges. To learn more about his business, federal agents seized school records. (Feb. 5, 2005) The Islamic Saudi Academy helped shaped the views of Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, who presently sits in a Virginia jail accused of trying to assassinate the president of the United States. (March 1, 2005); ...Ali Asad Chandia, 28, was arrested on the accusation of aiding two terrorist groups, including the Pakistani group *Lashkar-e-Taiba*. He is a third-grade teacher at Al-Huda School in College Park, Maryland, a K-8 school in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. that specializes in teaching the Arabic language and the Koran. Also of note: he served as the president of the Muslim Students Association at Montgomery College in 1998-1999 and was a member of the “Virginia jihad network.” (Sep. 17, 2005) Aug. 26, 2006 update: Chandia, convicted in June on three counts of providing material support to Lashkar-e-Taiba, was today sentenced to 15 years in prison. At the sentencing hearing, Chandia not only maintained his innocence but threatened to exact revenge against all those responsible for his conviction: “those who participated in making my children orphans ... should just remember that the day of judgment is on the way”<sup>3</sup>.

One of the most frequently heard terms in the counterterrorism/counter-radicalism conversation in Southeast Asia is *pesantren*, or Islamic boarding school. More often than not, the *pesantren* is associated with terrorism and/or radical Islam. Yet, despite all of the negative attention, the *pesantren* is poorly understood outside the world of sociology, religion, or anthropology. Quite the opposite of what is often portrayed in the media, the *pesantren*, in many ways, acts as a stabilizing force within Indonesian society. It is in their interest to do so. Unfortunately, a discourse (especially among counterterrorism experts on the *pesantren*’s role in maintaining stability and checking extremism in Indonesia is sadly lacking. A number of Indonesia observers will concede that the vast majority of *pesantren* are non-violent, yet there are few inquiries

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.danielpipes.org> Accessed March 10, 2015

into the positive role of the pesantren in preventing the growth of radicalism).

### **Research Problems**

Then, Pesantrens that called as Gontor Darussalam Modern Islamic Boarding School always assume that they have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo because they often benefit from it. In return for support from national and local governments, pesantrens disseminate an ideology that emphasizes moderation, tolerance, and religious harmony – all themes that buttress stability in a diverse country like Indonesia. Individual pesantrens and the pesantren system as a whole are not without vulnerabilities, however. With any symbiotic relationship, externalities could upset the mutually beneficial equilibrium. Well-funded extremists (foreign or otherwise) could offer inducements to any given pesantren that would alter the latter's ideological outlook. Specifically the research want to explore about : (1) The social prejudice in Modern Islamic Boarding School (Gontor Darussalam). (2) The Rebeliance behavior of students for responding of “social stigma” of their institution. (3) Finding out wheter any connection between sosial prejudice and rebeliance behavior of students at Gontor Darusaalam Islamic Boarding School.

### **Theoretical Background**

Prejudice in any form, racial or social, is destructive and costly to society. Up until the '60s, society accepted racial prejudice, then the target of racial prejudice rebelled and society realized the destructive force of this attitude. Today, social prejudice is accepted by society and few realize its destructive force. It kills motivation and increases overhead cost in business. It forces students to drop out of school with a failure label that prevents them from discovering their natural talent. Self-fulfilling prophecy does the rest. Social prejudice believes other people are less capable than us. If we are managers and we think other people are less capable, then we will establish a management policy that reflects that belief. Through employee turnover and self-fulfilling prophecy, our opinion will be proven right. Social prejudice is like any prejudice, “I am better than them, I come from a better

neighborhood, I have a better education, and therefore I must make all the decisions.” Prejudice in any form, racial or social, carries a heavy price, it lowers efficiency and increases overhead cost. Prejudice kills communications, innovation, motivation just to name a few attributes.

Social class is a prejudice barrier between *white-collar* and *blue-collar* employees. With leaders prejudice as a role model, other, lesser-defined social prejudice barriers develop in the organization. Departments will limit communication with other departments; craftsmen will consider production workers of low intelligence to name two. At each level, people believe lower levels have low capabilities and this becomes the mindset of the organization. Self-fulfilling prophecy proves everyone right. In this research I would like to explore about the rebel which held by adolescence, because in psychology we knew that it's the poster characteristic of the teenager years: adolescent rebellion. And it's one that causes many conflicts with parents. Two common types of rebellion are against socially fitting in (rebellion of non-conformity) and against adult authority (rebellion of non-compliance.) In both types, rebellion attracts adult attention by offending it. The young person proudly asserts individuality from what parents like or independence of what parents want and in each case succeeds in provoking their disapproval. This is why rebellion, which is simply behavior that deliberately opposes the ruling norms or powers that be, has been given a good name by adolescents and a bad one by adults. The reason why parents usually dislike adolescent rebellion is not only that it creates more resistance to their job of providing structure, guidance, and supervision, but because rebellion can lead to serious kinds of harm.

Rebellion can cause young people to rebel against their own self-interests; -- rejecting childhood interests, activities, and relationships that often support self-esteem, It can cause them to engage in self-defeating and self-destructive behavior - refusing to do school work or even physically hurting themselves, It can cause them to experiment with high-risk excitement - accepting dares that as a children they would have refused, It can cause them to reject safe rules and restraints - letting impulse overrule judgment to dangerous effect. And it can cause them to injure

valued relationships - pushing against those they care about and pushing them away. So adolescent rebellion is not simply a matter of parental aggravation; it is also a matter of concern.

Although the young person thinks rebellion is an act of independence, it actually never is. It is really an act of dependency. Rebellion causes the young person to depend self-definition and personal conduct on doing the opposite of what other people want. That's why the antidote for rebellion is the true independence offered by creating and accepting a challenge - the young person deciding to do something hard with themselves for themselves in order to grow themselves. The teenager who finds a lot of challenges to engage with, and who has parents who support those challenges, doesn't need a lot of rebellion to transform or redefine him or herself in adolescence.

To what degree a young person needs to rebel varies widely. In his fascinating book, "Born to Rebel" Frank Sulloway (Frank Sulloway "SURVIVING YOUR CHILD'S ADOLESCENCE" (Wiley, 2013)) posits that later born children tend to rebel more than first born. Some of his reasoning is because they identify less with parents, do not want to be clones of the older child or children who went before, and give themselves more latitude to grow in nontraditional ways. So, parents may find later born children to be more rebellious. From what I have seen in counseling, rebellion tends to have different roles in a young person's growth depending in which stage of adolescence it is expressed. Stage by adolescent stage, then, here is how rebellion seems to function.

Then, in the term *pesantren* goes back to Indonesia's Hindu-Buddhist roots. "... *pesantren* was *per-santri-en*, 'the place where the wise men were,' *santri* being a version of *shastri*, the Sanskrit word for a man learned in the Hindu *shastras*, the scriptures."<sup>4</sup> Today, the *pesantren* is in practice an umbrella term under which a wide array of related yet diverse institutions fall. A useful construct would be, perhaps, to look at the *pesantren* as an institution whose primary *function* is education. Primarily, but not exclusively, located in rural areas, *pesantrens* provide a place for study where pupils can

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<sup>4</sup> V.S. Naipaul, *Among the Believers: An Islamic Journey* (New York: Vintage Books, 1981), p323



receive religious instruction from a religious teacher (*kyai*). In many cases, pesantrens are boarding schools. The traditional pesantren is duty-bound to accept any student who wants to study there and can pay a nominal tuition fee.<sup>5</sup>

In modern Indonesia, pesantrens as educational institutions are divided into two types: modern and traditional (sometimes called *salaf* in Indonesian, ... The term *salaf*, in its Indonesian usage, should not be confused with the term *salafism*, which has become synonymous with Islamic fundamentalist globally. Stripped of its current political connotations, the Arabic word *salaf* means predecessors. Thusly, a *salaf pesantren* in Indonesia simply means a school that follows the teachings of those who came before). It would be far too easy and incorrect to equate modern pesantrens with bastions of forward-looking, liberal Islamic thought and traditional pesantrens with reactionary places that are hotbeds of radical thinking. Rather, the distinction is largely one that deals with the type of curriculum<sup>6</sup> A modern pesantren will, essentially, follow a nationally accredited school curriculum, determined by the Ministry of Education and/or the Ministry of Religious Affairs. In theory, a pesantren that follows a national curriculum receives funding from the national government. At the completion of a course of study, students receive a certificate that is equivalent to that of a state-run school. Traditional pesantrens, on the other hand, focus more exclusively on religious subjects, but may teach general subjects too. In traditional pesantrens, however, the pedagogy and content are not accredited or held to a national standard. As result, financial support from the government is more limited, though not inconsequential. A single pesantren can contain both modern and traditional teaching styles and curricula.

A majority of pesantrens in Indonesia are traditional and are therefore independent of formal government control. An example of one such pesantren is the Miftahul Huda pesantren in Tasikmalaya. This pesantren is in fact the flagship pesantren of a network of hundreds of affiliated pesantrens throughout Indonesia.

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<sup>5</sup> Ronald Lukens-Bull, *A Peaceful Jihad* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005), p. 65

<sup>6</sup> Ronald Lukens-Bull, *A Peaceful Jihad* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005), p. 47



As such, the Miftahul Huda organization remains independent from any formal control of the central government. The choice to remain independent, however, does not necessarily indicate any hostility toward the central government or a desire to overthrow it. In an interview, the head of the pesantren in Tasikmalaya, Maoshul Asep Affandy, explained that many pesantrens choose to remain outside the national formal education structure for a variety of reasons. Among the pesantrens affiliated to Miftahul Huda, some have adopted the nationally recognized curriculum and others have not. "The choice each pesantren in our network makes is based on what fits their local circumstances best," explained Affandy. "For instance, the pesantren here in Tasikmalaya remains traditional. This is because there are already government schools and *madrassas* with whom our pesantren has a close relationship. In fact, many of our students also attend the local government schools too," Affandy added. "All the pesantrens in our network, regardless of whether they are modern or traditional, follow the same religious interpretation of the Quran," Affandy said. Citing another reason, Affandy said that the ideal of self-sufficiency is key for many pesantrens and for that reason they did not want to lose the autonomy to design their own curricula.<sup>7</sup>

Pesantren students and leaders are often expected to provide religious instruction and perform religious services for their communities.<sup>8</sup> In Hindu-Buddhist days in Java," V.S. Naipul wrote, "a pesantren was a monastery, supported by the community in return for the spiritual guidance and the spiritual protection it provided."<sup>9</sup>

In many ways this role persists today. For example, the leader of the Ibnul Amin Pamangkin Pesantren in South Kalimantan holds a religious discussion (*majlis taklim*) for the local community every day at 6:00 am except Fridays and the deputy leader holds another discussion at lunchtime. Since 2007, the pesantren also

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<sup>7</sup> Asep A. Maoshul Affandy, interview by Hilary Dauer, April 20, 2012.

<sup>8</sup> Ronald Lukens-Bull, *A Peaceful Jihad* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005), p. 59

<sup>9</sup> V.S. Naipaul, *Among the Believers: An Islamic Journey* (New York: Vintage Books, 1981), p323

broadcasts these discussions on local radio.<sup>10</sup> Through religious lectures for the public, pesantrens and their graduates are able to transmit their belief system and interpretation of the Quran to the public at large. Pesantrens at the local level also spawn organizations that promote their interpretation of religious doctrine and provide charitable work. Once again, an example from South Kalimantan is illustrative. Ibnul Amin Pamangkih Pesantren has the Organization of Ibnul Amin Santri (OSIP) that organizes celebrations of Islamic holidays and the Darul Hijrah Cindai Alus Pesantren has the Organization of Darul Hijraj Santri (OSDA) that performs funerals for the community.<sup>11</sup>

Pesantrens receive financial support from regional governments for performing religious rituals, providing religious education for the general public, and celebrating Islamic holiday.<sup>12</sup> In many cases, local governments ask pesantrens to perform these religious functions. It would stand to reason that local governments would not want the pesantrens they fund to spread violent extremism in the community. After all, it is the local government that would have to deal with the aftermath of the violence.

## **Research Finding and Discussion**

There were two kinds of research finding in this research : (1) Descriptive analysis of respondent and spreading of mean data of variables. (2) The quantiative analysis and testing of the hypotesis.

## **The Descriptive Analysis of Respendent**

Table 1.1 : The Descriptive Analysis of Respondent

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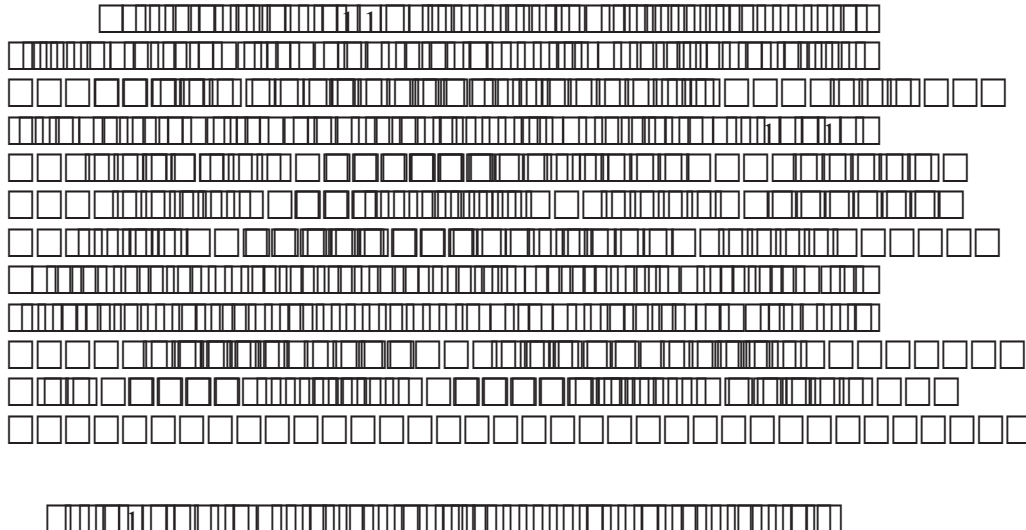
<sup>10</sup> Husnul Yaqin, *Sistem Pendidikan Pesantren Di Kalimantan Selatan* (Banjarmasin: Antasari Press, 2009), p. 241

<sup>11</sup> Husnul Yaqin, *Sistem Pendidikan Pesantren Di Kalimantan Selatan* (Banjarmasin: Antasari Press, 2009), p. 242

<sup>12</sup> Husnul Yaqin, *Sistem Pendidikan Pesantren Di Kalimantan Selatan* (Banjarmasin: Antasari Press, 2009), pp. 249-250

	<b>The Categories</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
	<i>Thee Education level</i>		
1	Junior high scool	167	49.85
2	Senior high school	268	50.15
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100.00</b>
	<i>Ages</i>		
1	12 – 14 years old	89	26.57
2	15 -17 years old	246	73.43
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100.00</b>
	<i>The economic background</i>		
1	High class level of economic background (family income Rp 10.000.000 / month)	51	15.24
2	Medium class level of economic background (family income Rp 5000.000 – Rp 10.000.000 / month)	189	56.42
3	Lower class level of economic background (family income Rp 5000.000 / month)	95	28.34
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100.00</b>
	<i>The parents employee</i>		
1	Civil servent	92	27.46
2	Teachers / Lecturer	86	25.67
3	Enterprenour / private sector	127	37.91
4	Public service	30	8.96
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100.00</b>
	<i>The family social-organization background</i>		
1	Nahdlatul Ulama	164	48.97
2	Muhammadiyah	106	30.64
3	Persis	35	20,39
	<b>Sum</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100</b>

Source s: The reserach reports 2014



### Social Prejudice

<b>The Categories</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
High	187	55.82
Low	148	44,18
<b>Sum</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Sources : The research reports, 2014

According to the Table 1.2 above, most of mean spreading were locating at the high level. It means that the social prejudicing which from the society has been implemented in Darussalam Islamic Boarding School (Gontor). Most of the social prejudice in the community based on, what information that they got from electronic media, news paper, internet and any kinds of information resource. Some of information an irresponsible and misleading to the society. Especially about violence and rebelian behavior which hipotetically taught in Islamic Boarding School (Including Gontor Darussalam as an Islamic Boarding School).

Table 1.3 The mean spreading, frequency and percentage of Rebeliance Behavior of Students

<b>The Categories</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
High	56	16.72
Low	279	83.28
<b>Sum</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Sources : The research reports, 2014

According to the Table 1.3 above, most of mean spreading were locating at the low level. It means that most of the studnets at the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School (Gontor) had not implemented rebeliance behavior; they never wanted to involved with any kinds of violence (bullying, crime activities, etc). Beside that, the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School (Gontor) never tolerate with many kinds of violence. So, they never thought about the violence activities. They always try to make comfortable condition (peacefull thinking and behavior) to study and playing. Although some of the community has a bad opinion and perspective about the Islamic Boarding School, the students at the Islamic Boarding School (specially; Gontor Darussalam) the never want

to condemmt or critique and also doing rebeliance behavior as a revange. Because, in the Islamic Boarding School, the students never taught to be a selfis person, intolerance, irresponsible or doing destructive behavior.

Table 1.4 The Hypotesis Analysis

		Social Prejudice	Rebeliance Behavior of Students Islamic Boarding School
Social Prejudice	Pearson Correlation	1	.328
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.090
	N	335	335
Rebeliance Behavior of Students Islamic Boarding School	Pearson Correlation	.328	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.090	
	N	335	335

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

According to The table 1.4 above, we got information that  $r_{score} = 0.328$ . Then the table  $t_{score} = 1,64$  and  $p = 0.90 > 0.05$ . It means  $H_0$  was recieve and rejected  $H_1$ . So, there were no correlation between social prejudice and rebeliance behavior of students at Gontor Darussalam Islamic Boarding School.

## Discussion

Today Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim-majority country, with approximately 88% of the population identified as Muslim. However, Indonesia is far from being homogeneous; it has a long and rich history of religious diversity. This diversity draws from Indonesia's history of trade, immigration, European colonization, and Indonesia's recent post-colonial political history, all of which contribute to an environment of dynamic interaction between different cultures and religions. Current government methods for collecting religious demographic information are based on the policy of six officially recognized

religions, within which all citizens must identify. However, this policy often over-simplifies and obscures the complexity of religious identity and activity at work in Indonesia.

The indigenous religious traditions of the Indonesian islands form a backdrop for the adaptation and synthesis of other religions into Indonesian culture. These indigenous traditions share several elements including: a balance between light and dark forces, the immanence of life (animism), and rituals and ceremonies for life and death. Other religions which arrived in Indonesia, starting with Hinduism and continuing through Buddhism, Islam and Christianity, were transformed by a process known as Javanization. Through this process incoming religions interacted with pre-existing indigenous values, institutions, and rituals, and eventually developed new and hybrid forms.

Hinduism arrived in Indonesia as early as the second century CE through Indian traders on the islands of Sumatra, Java, and Sulawesi. By the sixth century Buddhism had also taken root in Indonesia, and peacefully coexisted and blended with Hinduism and preexisting native traditions. The Hindu-Javanese culture was rich and vibrant and at one time spread across all of current Indonesia, culminating in the Majapahit Empire in the fourteenth century. The dominant belief systems of the Majapahit Empire were Hinduism, with either Siva or Visnu as the principle deities, and Mahayana Buddhism. In addition there was a diversity of Hindu- and Buddhist-derived sects, ascetic groups and yogic traditions, and ritual practices belonging to ancient indigenous faiths, which held various fertility, nature-centered, ancestor and death-related beliefs. The general populace also held firm to ancient beliefs in gods, spirits, and other protectors (Fic 88-89). Today the Majapahit Empire is upheld as a golden age of culture and prosperity and looked to as a source of inspiration for the modern Hindu revival movement.

Arab Muslim traders began commerce with Indonesia in fourth century CE; however, Indonesians did not begin converting to Islam until the eleventh century. By the thirteenth century Islam was established in North Sumatra. It then spread through Malaya, Brunei, Java and Malacca. Two main factors contributed to Islamic conversions in Java: 1) Islamic traders who married local women

and set up Islamic commercial communities on the coast and 2) Sufi teachers who penetrated the heartland of Java and taught mystic doctrines which were easily added to the existing synthesis of Hindu and Buddhist traditions (Fic 149-150). By the fifteenth century the Majapahit Empire was in decline, and in 1520 the last Hindu kingdom in Java fell to the Sultanate of Demak. The last major independent empire on Java, prior to Dutch colonization was the Sultanate of Mataram, which ruled from the late sixteenth century to the early eighteenth century.

Although the majority of the population eventually converted to Islam, Indonesians retained much of the previous blend of Hindu, Buddhist, and native religious traditions, with unique practices, rituals, and ceremonies. Anthropologist of religion Clifford Geertz popularized the terms *abagan* Islam and *santri* Islam, to refer to the syncretic, indigenous and more ritualistic forms of Islam found in Java, versus the more pious, orthodox, Arab-influenced form. Until recently, the majority of Muslims in Indonesia would be categorized as *abagan* Muslims, with a minority of *santri* Muslims. Since Indonesia's independence there has been a trend of Islamization, increase in observance and turn towards a less culturally-influenced, more universal form of Islam. Today, the largest Muslim organizations in Indonesia are the "traditionalists" (*Nahdlatul Ulama*) and "modernists" (*Muhammadiyah*), both promoting *santri* Islam.

Christianity arrived in Indonesia during the sixteenth century through two means: Catholic missionaries brought by the Portuguese, and Protestant missionaries brought by the Dutch. Initially Christianity mixed with native ethnic traditions, creating hybrid forms that still survive in more isolated and rural locations. Christians (Catholics and Protestants combined) currently make up around seven percent of the population. In the twentieth century there has been an increase in missionary efforts and growth of both Roman Catholicism and various Protestant denominations, particularly concentrated in Papua, Flores, and Sulawesi.

The period of Dutch colonization, from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century was also the period of the highest rates of Chinese immigration to Indonesia. Traditionally these Chinese communities have taken up business and professional employment,



belonging predominantly to the middle class. Chinese in Indonesia have faced great discrimination, prejudice, and even violence, during different periods in history, for example, during the anti-communist purge under Suharto in 1965. Today communities of Chinese descent in Indonesia maintain a variety of religious traditions, including Mahayana Buddhism, Confucianism, and Christianity.

The Dutch colonization of Indonesia, beginning in the seventeenth century, brought about changes in Indonesian pluralism as the Dutch imposed their own beliefs and policies towards religious and cultural authorities. This often resulted in an increase of Protestant missionary activity. At the same time, the Dutch supported pre-existing Islamic governance structures in order to provide for more stable trading partners. This in turn led to decreased support for the traditional Muslim aristocracy because the populace associated them with the Dutch, and to the rising authority of rural Islamic boarding schools and mystical leaders. These leaders later became the basis for independence movements, which in the twentieth century coalesced around either Muslim or popular nationalist parties. In post-colonial Indonesia, several presidential regimes, most notably those of Sukarno (1945-1967) and Suharto (1967-1998), created public policies that favored some religious groups and discriminated against others.

In 1945 President Sukarno established the doctrine of Pancasila as the foundation of the new constitution. Pancasila's first principle states that the state is based on "belief in the one and only God." The adoption of Pancasila occurred over the defeat of the so-called Jakarta Charter, a proposed amendment to the Indonesian declaration of independence that would make Indonesia a Muslim nation by stating "the obligation to practice sharjah for its followers." Under Suharto, the government officially recognized five religions: Islam, Protestantism, Catholicism, Hinduism and Buddhism. Pancasila, the influence of sharjah in national policy, and the position of official national religions are still topics of debate in contemporary Indonesia. See section on Pancasila and Government Practice and Policy.

An interesting phenomenon in the current Indonesian religious landscape is the Hindu revival movement, centered in Bali

and Java. Unlike the rest of Indonesia, Bali retained the pre-Islamic Hindu-Javanese culture, and is still predominantly identified as Hindu. Hinduism was recognized as one of the officially designated religions in 1962, primarily in response to activism from Balinese Hindus. The largest Balinese Hindu organization, Parisada Hindu Dharma Bali, later changed its name to Parisada Hindu Dharma Indonesia, in order to redefine Hinduism as a national rather than solely Balinese religion.

Beginning in the 1970s, various ethnic groups on other islands began to identify as Hindu, often seeking protection for their indigenous ancestor religion under the official title of Hinduism. New Hindu communities developed in Java, centered on the restoration and rededication of ancient Hindu temples such as Pura Mandaragiri Sumeru Agung, located on the slope of Mt. Sumeru, Java's highest mountain. Often these communities were financially supported by donors from Bali, but later grew through mass conversions and become sites of pilgrimage. Now the Hindu revival also has a strong utopian flavor; the popularity of prophecies from ancient Hindu Javanese personages such as Sabdapalon and Jayabaya, predict a dark age, identified with the current political upheaval, corruption and violence, to be followed by a golden age of peace and prosperity. The case of the Hindu revival is one of the many ways in which Indonesia's pluralistic history interacts with the Indonesian people's current political, social, and spiritual goals.

Being the world's third largest democracy as well as a Muslim-majority country, Indonesia has become the site for studying the development of modern Islam and democracy. Robert Hefner writes, "Today Indonesia deserves every democrat's praise for having created the largest movement for a democratic Islam in the world"<sup>13</sup> Indonesia's history of diversity makes a rich precedent and foundation for the development of civic democratic society. In addition, the case of Indonesia provides an alternative to studies of Islamic politics focused on the Middle East. Hefner states, "Marginalized in treatments of classical Islam, Indonesia must be central to any effort to come to terms with the diversity of

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<sup>13</sup> Hefner, Robert W. *Introduction to The Politics of Multiculturalism: Pluralism and Citizenship in Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia*. Edited by Robert W. Hefner. (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2014) p.45

modern Muslim politics”<sup>14</sup> The situation of religion in Indonesia, and Islam in particular, is complex and undergoing constant change. There are current trends that point to an increase in more orthodox, conservative interpretations of Islam. This is evidenced by various local counties, in particular Aceh, enacting versions of sharijah-influenced law, and the existence of extremist and militant organizations such as Laskar Jihad and Jemaah Islamiyah. Some groups argue for abandoning Pancasila and instituting a fully Islamic state.

On the other hand, the largest Muslim organizations in Indonesia, Muhammadiyah (1912) and Nahdlatul ‘Ulama (NU) (1926), coming from the modernist and neo-traditionalist movements respectively, are committed to upholding Pancasila and not instituting a Muslim state and promoting a pluralistic democratic state. In addition, organizations such as the Liberal Islam Network (1999) are dedicated to advancing liberal Islam, which it defines as struggling for civil liberties such as freedom of expression, minority rights, women’s rights and freedom of religion. Finally, although there are several political parties that have been founded on religious grounds, elections routinely demonstrate the general population’s support for Pancasila and for continuing a history of tolerance and diversity for the many religions co-existing in Indonesia.

There is a nation-wide network of NGOs and think tanks that manufacture ideology and then work with pesantrens to disseminate it. One such think tank is the Jakarta-based Indonesian Society for Pesantren and Community Development (P3M), which promotes the ideals of moderation and tolerance. Florian Pohl has described P3M’s work as utilizing “the extensive network of Indonesia’s pesantrens, which are agents for and targets of community development... with a particular focus on pluralism and democracy”<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Hefner, Robert W. *Civil Islam: Muslims and Democratization in Indonesia*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), p. 6

<sup>15</sup> (Florian Pohl, “Islamic Education and Civil Society: Reflections on the Pesantren Tradition in Contemporary Indonesia,” *Comparative Education Review* 50, 2006), p. 396

Evidence of the desires of the pesantren system's leaders to maintain stability can be found in the aforementioned ideological outlook. Often in Indonesia, ideological paradigms that favor the status quo can be identified through certain code words or rhetorical totems such as pancasila (see above), tolerance, and pluralism. It is tempting to think of tolerance or pluralism as altruistic concepts but they are also useful to the national leadership of a religiously diverse country because, if accepted by society, they promote stability. If an ideology of religious harmony can be inculcated in the people, then internecine violence would be less likely. To this extent, the government funding detailed above also aids a kyai's ability to spread his (or, in some very rare cases, her) ideological beliefs. And, if a member of NU, the ideological position of the kyai will be in line, by and large, with the type of stability the government wants.

Then, pesantrens do not produce violent extremists and even terrorists. But until now, some people think that we called as social prejudice, saying can anything be learned from these outliers to the pesantren system as a whole? In particular, why were these pesantrens susceptible to an ideology that encouraged its graduates to seek an overthrow of the system? One of two conclusions would seem logical: 1) the extremist ideology that somehow infiltrated these pesantrens was so mesmerizing that it overwhelmed the rational cost-benefit analysis of the students, teachers, and the institution; or 2) some external force sweetened the incentives for taking on an ideology that rejected the current status quo and caused an individual pesantren to be an enemy rather than partner of the state. In either case, the existing system was unable to counter the allure presented by radicals in these limited cases. Time will tell if these few outliers become a trend and to what degree the government will do something to prevent the isolated phenomena from metastasizing.

## **Conclusion**

In general, the pesantren system as a whole, as well as a great many pesantrens individually, maintains a close relationship with government. The relationship with government exists regardless of whether a particular pesantren receives government funding in

exchange for teaching the government curriculum. (But, Darussalam Islamic Boarding School in East Java always try to build their own values . Then they try to be a self-sufficient institution. They have thirty kinds of small and medium industry. Their want to be independent institution.<sup>16</sup> Then, an individual pesantren is part of a religious infrastructure that is in many ways designed to keep the status quo. One manifestation of this infrastructure is the relationship between pesantren leaders and Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), the world's largest private voluntary organization, and the government. Pesantren leaders form one of the core constituencies of NU.<sup>17</sup>

It would not be a stretch to say that NU was born in the pesantren.<sup>18</sup> Today, NU can be thought of as a loosely knit association of pesantren leaders. In that sense, NU in many ways functions as an advocacy group for the association of pesantren leaders it represents. For instance, NU works closely with the government to develop job prospects for pesantren.<sup>19</sup>

Since at least the late 1950s, NU has accepted the central government's secular, multi-confessional state ideology, known as *pancasila*, in exchange for support for NU's educational and social programs. In 1959, NU relented on its insistence for the inclusion of Sharia Law in the constitution and began a period of cooperation and accommodation with the Sukarno regime.<sup>20</sup> this cooperation

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<sup>16</sup> Fahmi Reza, *The Correlation Between Character Building and Peaceful Thinking of Students in Darussalam Modern Islamic Boarding School in East Java*. (Mataram: Annual International Conference in Islamic Studies, 2013)

<sup>17</sup> Hefner, Robert W. *Civil Islam: Muslims and Democratization in Indonesia*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), p. 34

<sup>18</sup> Said Aqil Siradj, "Pesantren, NU, dan Politik," in *Nahdlatul Ulama: Dinamika Ideologi dan Politik Kenegaraan*, ed. Khamami Zada and Ahmad Fawaid Sjadzili, (Jakarta: Kompas Penerbit Buku, 2010), p. 86

<sup>19</sup> Hefner, Robert W. *Civil Islam: Muslims and Democratization in Indonesia*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), p. 86

<sup>20</sup> Robin Bush. *Nahdlatul Ulama and the Struggle for Power within Islam and Politics in Indonesia* (Singapore: The Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2009), p. 56

continues to today. In many ways, the NU's relationship with the government is based around resource allocation.<sup>21</sup>

The case of Indonesia provides a factual counter argument to the fear of what an Islam-centric civil society would wreak if they were let loose in a democracy. Far from giving radicals a free reign, democracy allows Islamic civil society organizations an opportunity to be part of the system and benefit from stable government. An open society allows religious organizations to become champions of large groupings of people. These religious organizations can, as champions, assert the interests of the people they represent vis-a-vis the state. In Indonesia's case, *NU has in some ways developed into an association of pesantrens. Rich civil societies allow for religious institutions like pesantrens to have enough power to act independently of the government and negotiate the rules of the game as equal partners. Contrary to popular belief, pesantrens, like most civil society structures, act as indigenous barriers to radicalism (\*)*.

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The Department of Religion and Philosophy, St Martin's College, UK offers a general history of religion in Indonesia.

The Department of Religion and Philosophy, St. Martin's College, UK, also offers descriptions of various indigenous traditions of Indonesia.

The Embassy of Indonesia has articles on the history of the Hindu and Muslim empires.

The US Library of Congress gives short descriptions of the history of religious groups and minorities which can be accessed through their Country Study of Indonesia

Wikipedia has a variety of articles detailing the history of Indonesia through the various empires and political regime changes, as well as articles on religion in Indonesia (both general and according to religion), which can be accessed through the Indonesia main page.