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A Systematic Literature Review on Factors of Religious Tolerance among Multi-Religion Community

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Abstract

“For You is Your Religion; For Me is My Religion”. Based on one of the Al-Quran verse, one's religion cannot be forced to follow. In fact it is the freedom of the right of every individual to choose a religion freely. In the above verse is contained the meaning of being fanatical towards our own religion and tolerance towards other religions. Differences in religion have a major impact on community tolerance. This systematic review article present what are the factors of religious tolerance that help people from different religion to unite in the same community. The methodology used in this systematic literature review are guided by Preferred Items for Systematic reviews and Meta- Analysis guideline. 7 article from Scopus as main database was selected through the process of identification, screening, eligibility and inclusion exclusion process. Five main theme are found as a result which level of religious behaviours, openness, governance, economy and culture. The analysis on factors of religious tolerance also found that focus is given more on governance and openness compare to other factors.

Keywords: Religion, Tolerance, Factor

Introduction

This paper analyse factors of religious tolerance model by doing a systematic literature of six years of latest studies. The in-depth review on seven studies resulted in five different categories which are the level of religious behaviours, openness, governance, economy and culture. Factors of religious tolerance are causing the people in different religion can live in the same community together. It has been recognized and acknowledge religious ties were found to be more bound in society compared to family and ethnics.

Many conflicts have occurred in the community over the years due to misunderstandings or lack of religious tolerance. Emerging and growing extremist groups bearing the name of religion cause communities of different religions to be suspicious of each other, distrust and cause disharmony. In community of different religions, religious tolerance enlivens a sense of togetherness and favors a societal way of life. High religious tolerance helps find common ground without diminishing self-esteem in a multi-religious community.

Yet there are attempts by irresponsible parties who try to damage racial harmony by playing on sensitive issues such as religion and culture on media platforms. According to

Hassan (2013), the media is very influential in shaping society's perception. The influence of the media can shape public perceptions. The people and the government were impressed by the media's coverage of the issue of religious sensitivity.

Among the examples is the production of the film "Innocence of Muslim" directed by Sam Becilla which is Islamophobic. The film clearly insults The Prophet Muhammad SAW, Islam and lead to misunderstands in Islam. The events of September 11, 2001 in New York city were also one of the triggers of Islamophobia committed by the media. This incident tarnishes the image of Muslims in the eyes of society that cause Muslims are associated with terrorism. The attack that took place in 2019 was a terrorist attack in Christchurch, New Zealand that claimed the lives of 49 Muslims in two mosques. Many of these issues on religious tolerance also occur to minority religious believers in a country such as discrimination against Muslims in Myanmar (Suria et al., 2016), wearing headscarves, construction of mosques, existence of religious classes Islam and creating public holidays for the Muslim community (Gelb & Longacre, 2012; Van Der Noll, 2014).

An example of the issue of religious tolerance in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia, there was a fight between Christians and Muslims, causing conflict between the two religions. In Malaysia, there have been various hot issues in the last decade involving government management and preachers involving religious conversion, divorce, custody of children, possession of power, burial corpses, construction of places of worship, cremation and so on. Recently there was a conflicts between religions such as laundry issues, halal logos, muslimah rooms and Oktoberfest. The clash between religions is this happening which causes a religious deficit in society must be understood and analyzed, in order to ensure that the country continues to build relations between religion, national unity and national progress. This conflict affects the progress of a country because harmony is one of the keys to progress.

Despite all these, a lot of have been done in government, organisation, community and individual to reduce the likelihood of conflicts to happen. Example in Malaysia governance, the National Unity Policy was launched in Feb 2021 places the strengthening of the structure of inter-religious organizational relations at every level of society. This proves that religion is an important dimension in Malaysia in ensuring that the country continues to enjoy harmony and socio-political stability while driving development in various sectors.

There are factors that contributes to these religious tolerance in a multi-religious community. This is why the analysis of the community is necessary reflect the diversity that exists, balance each other and find points of similarity in order to ensure the life satisfaction of all members in a community (Ponizovskiy et al., 2020, Dragolov et al., 2020; Nowack & Schoderer, 2020).

Method

In order to answer the research question, PRISMA method on systematic literature review is used. The PRISMA method help to collect and filter the article and also provide the eligibility and exclusion criteria for selected article. This systematic literature review process follow three main level which are identification process, article screening and eligibility process and also data abstraction with content analysis process.

What is PRISMA

PRISMA is standard for Preferred Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analysis that help to make a clear report of systematic review and content analysis. The usage of PRISMA allowed to identify the current trend of certain issues especially in social science context. By

using PRISMA, a large number of article can be examined the author can find the exact article that suitable to the research question according to the exclusion and inclusion criteria process. Therefore, this article were used PRISMA as a method to make a transparent report systematic literature review of factors of religious tolerance.

Resources

Scopus is the database that act as resources for this review. Scopus is an abstract and citation database that provide by Elsevier which contain about 11 000 publisher and more that 34 000 peer-reviews journal in critical academic subject like social science, medical science and others.

Eligibility and Exclusion Criteria

This review paper used a certain eligibility and exclusion criteria to ensure the exact article were extracted. For the article type, only journal article were selected in this review because the merit to the scientific field and also the quality of the finding. Review article, book, book series or book chapter are not included in this review. To avoid wrong translation in the article, only article in English were selected to improve the understanding of the writing. Next, to ensure the latest factors of religious tolerance, this article only consists a review of six years latest literature which cover article from 2017 until 2022. The exclusion and inclusion criteria can be understand as in table 1.

Table 1

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Criteria	Inclusion	Exclusion
Article type	Article Journal	Book, Chapter Book, Book Series, Proceeding, Review Article
Publication Year	2017 until 2022	Below 2017
Language	English	Other than English Language

Systematic Review Process

In PRISMA statement, identification of article is the first process that has to be done. Specific keyword and search string (refer table 2) were used for the identification process. By according to the thesaurus, literature review and past studies, the related keyword for religious tolerance were used.

After identification process, the 244 articles were going to the next screening process where the articles will be filter according to the articles type, publication year and article language. This screening process end up with 40 article left for the next process. The 40 articles is undergoing a full examine on its abstract and its content which known as eligibility process. 33 article did not meet the requirement to answer this article research question which finally end up with 7 articles for content analysis process. Figure 1 explained the PRISMA process

Table 2
 Search string in identification process

Database	Scopus
Search String	TITLE-ABS-KEY(("religion* tolerance* factor *")) (LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2022) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2021) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2020) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2019) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2018) OR LIMIT-TO (PUBYEAR, 2017)) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, "English"))

Data Abstraction and Analysis

The PRISMA process finally end with 7 article left to be analyses its content that answer this article research question. Rigorous and in depth examine on the abstract and finding of the article has resulted in five main theme in factors of religious tolerance.

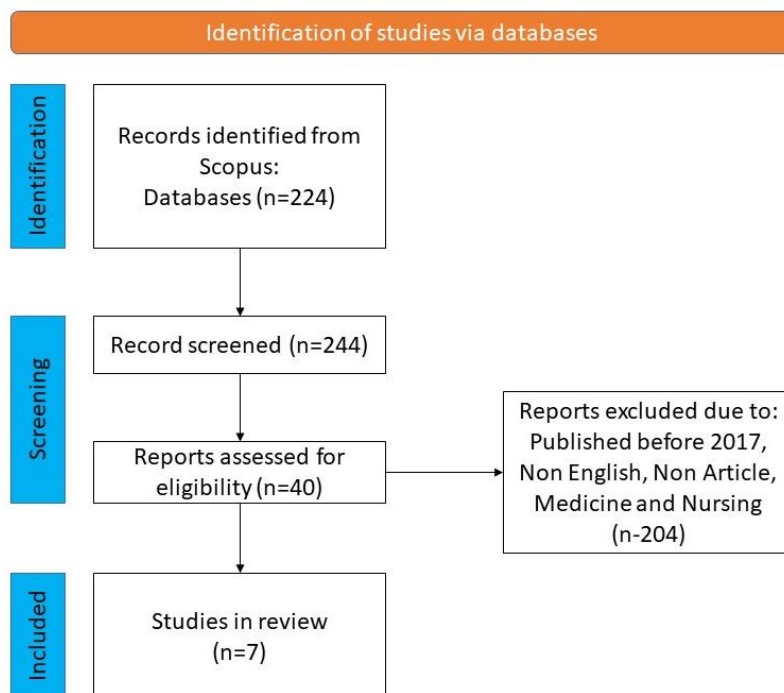


Figure 1: PRISMA process

Finding and Discussion

The review on seven article finally give five main theme on factors of religious tolerance. The five theme are level of religious behaviours, openness, governance, economy and culture. In this article review, the result and this discussion is specifically focus on the how this factors can increase the tolerance among multi-religious community.

Seven studies is identified that related to the factors of religious tolerance which are Renzaho et al (2020) (Australia); Galen et al (2021) (Ireland); Aschauer et al (2020) (Austria); Huda (2019) (Indonesia); Mujani (2019) (Indonesia); Beggren et al (2019) (Sweden); Sarigil et al (2017) (Turkey); The studies is show in table 3 below

In addition, two study are conducted in Indonesia, one study in Australia, one study was done in Ireland, one in Austria, one in Sweden, one in Russia and one in Turkey. As for the studies methodology approach, six studies were conducted in qualitative method and the other six were conducted in quantitative method. As for the year of publication analyse, none studies in conduct in 2018, one study was published in 2022, one study in 2021, one study in 2020, three studies in 2019 and one study in 2017.

Table 3

Factors of religious tolerance

Author	Level of religious behavior	Openness	Governance	Economy	Culture
Renzaho et al 2020 (Australia)	/				
Crowley et al 2021 (Ireland)	/	/	/		
Fachbereich et al 2020 (Austria)	/	/			
Mujani 2019 (Indonesia)	/	/	/		/
Beggren et al 2019 (Sweden)			/		/
Tolmacheva et al 2018 (Russia)	/		/	/	
Sarigil et al 2017 (Turkey)	/	/	/	/	/

Table 3 show the result of factors of religious tolerance. The factors is divide into five categories which are level of religious behaviours, openness, governance, economy and customs/culture. Level of religious behaviours motivated by religious beliefs. Levels of religious behavior by individuals is very often linked to religious collective action by the individual. Religious behaviors can be public, as in participating in religious rituals, making pilgrimages, or donating time and money to religious groups; or they can be private, such as prayer, meditation, and reading sacred texts. For openness, in religion it reflects, in part, a willingness to consider new ideas, as well as to question one's values and beliefs, and therefore some might expect a negative relation between openness and religiousness. However, in study there was a positive correlation between basic religious beliefs and openness (Gholamreza et al., 2012)

The third theme in religion tolerance is governance. Religious governance refers to the internal and external regulation of religious diversity and to their dynamic interaction. Internal governance by the respective religious communities here understood those groups that share certain religious beliefs and practices, however contested the boundaries and the beliefs and practices may be includes self-regulation by religious laws and customs of many aspects of life from the cradle to the grave. Meanwhile, external governance of religious diversity includes more voluntary and democratic forms of self-regulation by interfaith

networks, movements, associations, and organizations. The governance perspective enables and stimulates analysis of the regulations of religious diversity within so-called semi-public and private organizations.

For the fourth theme, religion reflects upon the economic life in a society through various channels such as the shared values and beliefs which further determine the efficiency of the decision-making process and thus economic outcomes. Religion also impacting the attitude towards change and innovation, which is crucial to progress and to economic growth; by setting the social and economic objectives in accordance to the underlying values and religious beliefs of the society. For culture theme, culture is naturally related to the networks of social and structural factors, such as standards of education, norms, ideals, values, politics of gender equalisation, levels of economy and democracy.

Table 4

Factors of Religious Tolerance

Level of religious behavior	Openness	Governance	Economy	Customs/ culture
Religiosity	Openness to experience	Authoritarianism	Income equality	Tradition of marrying different religion members
Religious affiliation	Interpersonal influences	Democratic-pluralistic political policy that gives the same political space without minority-majority discrimination	Economy factors	Ethnicity
Searching for a deeper meaning through religion	Believing that religion should have a prominent place in society	Perceptions of the political economy, law and order, and security conditions		Inter-ethnic contact
Striving for a spiritual life	Inclusive socio-cultural relationship (open- mutually respect) between the members of religions	Institutional engagement		
An understanding of the religion in substantive-inclusive way	(etno)orientasi nasionalis	Democratic values		

		Integrity		
		Equal rights		
		Threat perception		

Discussion

This article is a systematically review of six years latest on factors of religious tolerance among multi-religious community. Seven studies that related to the religion tolerance were analyses which finally resulted to the five main theme in factors of religious tolerance.

The chosen of factors of religious tolerance to be review on this article is because of the too much attention is put on the factors of tolerance in single or two religion while neglecting the other community religion that actually also live in the same community. On the other hand, analysis of the community is necessary reflect the diversity that exists, balance each other and find points of similarity in order to ensure the life satisfaction of all members in a community (Ponisovskiy et al., 2020; Dragolov et al., 2020; Nowack & Schoderer, 2020).

According to this review, the top factor that seems the most popular factor linked to religion tolerance is governance. This is because the promoting of religion tolerance is merge together with the implementation of policies by the government. The challenges to improve tolerance from different religion together is based on governanc. The emphasis on the religious dimension is also translated in the National Unity Policy and the National Unity Blueprint 2021-2030 as among the deficits in society that need to be managed. The policy is one of the effort to the main target is seen to be able to reduce the religious deficit thereby harmonizing religion, strengthening unity and harmony in a multi-religion community.

Next, the second popular factors linked to religion tolerance is the openness factor. Analysis found that religions that were focused on people, processes and events external to the congregation showed the characteristics of being more open to external information. The quality of interactions between individuals in the community improves the relationship that makes the community possible (Pooley et al., 2005). Specifically, the awareness of these external beliefs allowed for a wider set of external information to be considered relevant and less biased. This will allow the community to be more open to disconfirming information from outside public. When these beliefs were understood, making it more likely that this disconfirming information would be attended to.

Interestingly, the level of religious behaviour factor ranking third among the most popular factors linked to religion tolerance. A personal religious behaviour is activated when the individual anticipates something with a religious meaning. From a sociological perspective, social expectation that religious people have some knowledge of religion, and that they can explain their views on transcendence, religion and religiosity. In community practice, expectation that religious individuals belong to religious communities which is manifested in the public participation in religious rituals and in communal activities. In the personal religious construct system this dimension is represented as patterns of action and as a sense of belonging with respect to a certain religion. The general level of religious behaviour can be measured by inquiring about the frequency with which somebody takes part in religious services. In interreligious studies, it is recommendable to vary the label for religious service according to the religious affiliation of the individual. Example for Christians is church attendance meanwhile Friday prayer for Muslims. Cui et al., (2017) stated that religion influence behavior in the community is significant and needs to be given special focus to be practiced. In fact, the level of religious behaviour of the individual have an impact on

complex decision-making processes and prevent behaviors that can lead to conflict (Szromek, 2020).

Conclusion

This systematic review has identified the factors most frequently linked to religion tolerance worldwide from six years' latest studies. It recognized that the top three factors as the most popular associated with religion tolerance are the governance, openness and the level of religious behaviour factor.

This study found that political policy and security are the most linked to religion tolerance in terms of governance. In openness, respect is identified as the most necessary element. In the level of religious behaviour, religiosity seems to be the highest sub-element connected to religion tolerance in multi-religion community. This study also found the other two factors associated with the religion tolerance worldwide: the economy and customs/culture. In the economy factor, the income of the community element is often associated with the religion tolerance among each other in past studies. In the value and cultural factor, the norms and values are the top elements to enhance the religion tolerance study.

This study has shown that governance is the factor most often associated with religion tolerance among multi-religion community. The governance factor in this study refers to the internal and external regulation of religious diversity and to their dynamic interaction. This involves economic aspects, policy, security, and physical development of a region or place. Littman (2018) stated that the governance, economy and customs/culture are important determinants of community tolerance.

In this study, openness ranked second as the factor most frequently associated with religion tolerance. Openness in religion reflects, in part, a willingness to consider new ideas, as well as to accepting one's values and beliefs. Behavior based on human values can strengthen relationships between two different groups (Buyuker et al., 2018). Silvia (2019) also found that behavior is based on human values in Indonesian religions such as tolerance, no coercion and love of peace can form a harmony community.

Future literature studies are recommended to seek the factors linked to other similar religion tolerance model to fully understand the epistemology to create tolerance in multi-religion community.

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