The Concept of Ukhuwah Islamiyah in Building Civil Society for Generation Z

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Abstract
This research aims to analyze the concept of Ukhuwah Islamiyah and its contribution in building civil society among Generation Z. The focus of the research includes Generation Z's understanding of the values of Ukhuwah Islamiyah as well as the challenges and opportunities in its application in the digital era. This study uses a qualitative method with a descriptive approach through literature studies, collecting secondary data from related scientific journals. The findings of the study show that Generation Z interprets Ukhuwah Islamiyah through a digital lens, integrating the values of brotherhood, justice, tolerance, and inclusivity in social life. These values are an important foundation in realizing a harmonious and just civil society. The study also identified challenges such as digital individualism and disinformation, as well as opportunities through social media and religious education platforms. As a contribution, this study provides strategic recommendations to increase the understanding and participation of Generation Z in actualizing Ukhuwah Islamiyah, as well as enriching academic studies on the relationship between Islamic values and the development of modern society.

Keywords: Ukhuwah Islamiyah, Generation Z, Civil Society, Digital Era, Islamic Values

INTRODUCTION

The concept of Islamic brotherhood, or Islamic brotherhood, has a huge impact on the development of civil society, especially among the younger generation. Ukhuwah Islamiyah serves as a basic principle that encourages unity, mutual support, and cooperation among Muslims, which can foster a sense of collective responsibility and common identity. This bond transcends geographical, ethnic, and cultural boundaries in uniting individuals who are under the same signs of faith. (Iryani & Tersta, 2019)

This emphasis on brotherhood in Islam is more than just social interaction, but it provides a framework for ethical behavior, social justice, and community development. These principles are firmly rooted in the Qur'an and the traditions of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), which emphasize the importance of compassion, empathy, and solidarity among Muslims. Therefore, community consolidation and community development are encouraged in Islam.

In the midst of a contemporary society characterized by an increasing situation in which society is divided into isolated or under-interacting groups and moral relativism, the concept of ukhuwah Islamiyah provides a valuable framework for fostering unity and solidarity and promoting ethical values among the younger generation. Religious moderation emerged as a strategic value to build a devout understanding of religion, especially in dealing with religious issues. (Elvinaro & Syarif, 2021) By instilling a sense of mutual belonging and common purpose, ukhuwah can be a fortress to counter the negative impact of isolation and isolation that occurs in contemporary society, as well as empower the younger generation to become active and responsible members of society. Islamic values actually have an important role in shaping the character of the younger generation.

Generation Z was born between 1998 and 2009, precisely after the millennial generation or generation Y. Where Generation Z is a unique group formed in the digital era, globalization, and rapid social change. They are known to have a stronger interest in technological innovation, have an entrepreneurial spirit, and a commitment to social issues. As a digital generation, Generation Z is strongly connected through various social media platforms, which also influence their views and values. In addition, this generation is also characterized by diversity and inclusivity, as well

as a desire to seek authenticity, challenge traditional norms and seek meaningful experiences. With these characteristics, how generation Z views and practices ukhuwah Islamiyah is very important to build a cohesive and harmonious society. (Ardiansyah, Nisa, & Amrin, 2023)

The concept of civil society encompasses a society characterized by justice, equality, tolerance, and active participation of citizens. Civil society promotes the rule of law, respect for human rights, and the search for the common good. To build a civil society, it is necessary to develop social capital, encourage citizen involvement, and empower individuals to contribute to the welfare of society. (Mustaniruddin, Afriyadi, & Jamilah, 2020) Ukhuwah Islamiyah with its emphasis on unity, cooperation, and social responsibility, can play an important role in instilling civil society values and principles among generation Z.

This research aims to explore the relevance and application of the concept of ukhuwah Islamiyah in an effort to build a civil society among generation Z. This research will explain 2 main objectives, namely how generation Z understands and interprets the concept of ukhuwah Islamiyah in the context of building a civil society and what values of Ukhuwah Islamiyah inspire generation Z in building civil society

By answering these questions, this research seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of the role and values of ukhuwah Islamiyah in fostering social cohesion, ethical behavior, and active citizenship among generation Z, ultimately driving the development of a thriving Civil Society.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach with a qualitative descriptive or descriptive analysis method, which aims to understand the Concept of Ukhuwah Islamiyah in Madani Community for Generation Z. This qualitative descriptive method studies existing phenomena and describes aspects related to the phenomena we observe. Basically, a qualitative descriptive approach is research that seeks to describe and interpret something with existing situations and relationships. This qualitative approach does not require a hypothesis, so the researcher does not need to formulate a hypothesis, but based on qualitative evidence. (Ramadhani & Khoirunisa, 2025)

Meanwhile, the data collection technique in this study is a literature study. Literature study is a method to collect data by means of literature study from various references and related to the topic being studied. (Fadli, 2021) This technique involves reviewing the latest literature, including journal articles, books, and research reports relevant to the topic of the Concept of Ukhuwah Islamiyah in Madani Communities for Generation Z.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Concept of Ukhuwah Islamiyah and Its Relevance for Generation Z

The word ukhuwah means brotherhood, meaning feelings of empathy and sympathy between two or more people. Each party has the same condition or feeling, both joys and sorrows, both happy and difficult. The intertwining of feelings gives rise to a mutual attitude to help each other when the other party is having difficulties, and an attitude to share pleasure with the other party when one of the parties finds pleasure. While the word Islam means Islam itself. So Ukhuwah Islamiyah is a brotherhood that applies between fellow Muslims or a brotherhood that is bound by creed or faith, regardless of class. (Iryani & Tersta, 2019) As stated in the Qur'an about Ukhuwah Islamiyah, namely Q.S Al-Hujurat verse 10:

$$\text{اِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُوْنَ اِخْوَةٌ فَاَصْلِحُوْا بَيْنَ اَخَوَيْكُمْ وَاتَّقُوا اللهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُوْنَ}$$

Meaning: "Verily, the believers are brothers, so reconcile your two brothers (who are at war) and fear Allah so that you may be blessed." (Rafiqah, 2020)

The concept of ukhuwah Islamiyah as the foundation of universal brotherhood in Islam, has a strong resonance in the context of building an inclusive and harmonious civil society, especially for generation Z. This concept transcends geographical, ethnic, and social boundaries,

emphasizing unity, compassion, and cooperation as the main pillars. (Syawaludin, 2020) In a digital era characterized by social fragmentation and polarization, the values of Ukhuwah Islamiyah offer a relevant framework for building bridges of brotherhood and promoting social cohesion. (Subakir, 2020)

Civil Society

Civil society, which is an ideal social order, is characterized by the principles of justice, equality, active participation, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. (Mustaniruddin, Afriyadi, & Jamilah, 2020) This concept is not only a theoretical discourse, but also has practical relevance, especially in the Indonesian context, where the vision of civil society is in line with the values of Pancasila and the spirit of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika, which emphasizes unity in diversity.

The Qur'an as a guide for the life of Muslims has provided clear instructions on how to realize an ideal civil society, emphasizing the importance of faith, humanity, unity, deliberation, and justice. In the digital era like now, the role of Generation Z, as a dominant demographic group and very knowledgeable about technology, can be crucial in strengthening civil society. Their ability to access information, collaborate digitally, and voice democratic and human rights values through social media platforms can be a transformative force to advance a more inclusive and just social order. By combining religious values, local wisdom, and technological advancement, Generation Z has great potential to become agents of change in realizing a civil society in accordance with the ideals of the Indonesian nation and Islamic teachings.

Characteristics of Gen Z and Moral Challenges in the Digital Age

Generation Z is a generation that was born and grew up in the midst of the digital revolution, (Sham, Abdullah, & Ismail, 2020) they appeared after the previous generation. Generation Z is used to the use of technology and the internet from an early age, the use of technology that can form unique characteristics in them, such as digital natives which means that the use of technology becomes an inseparable part of their lives to generation Z often gets sarcasm, namely "can't live without a smartphone like oxygen to breathe", besides that generation Z is famous for being quite expressive in the digital world, both through text, images, and videos. As a result of exposure to various digital platforms simultaneously, they hone their multitasking skills, and get used to intense interactions on social media. (Hayati, 2024) However, technology is like a double-edged sword. So, while technology offers many opportunities, it also brings its own challenges, including moral degradation, disinformation, hate speech, and polarization. (Azizah, 2022) Therefore, instilling the values of ukhuwah Islamiyah from an early age is very important to fortify oneself from negative influences and promote ethical behavior in the virtual world and the real world.

Ukhuwah Islamiyah in the Context of Generation Z and Civil Society

Generation Z grew up in an environment dominated by technology and digital connectivity. (Sham et al., 2020) This shapes the way they interact, learn, and understand religious values, including ukhuwah islamiyah. Ukhuwah islamiyah, which means Islamic brotherhood, emphasizes unity, compassion, and mutual aid among Muslims.

Social media such as TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, and others are the main platforms for Generation Z to interact and get information. (Arifah et al., 2024) However, social media can also be a source of polarization, hate speech, and disinformation that can damage the Islamic ukhuwah. Therefore, it is important for Generation Z to develop critical thinking skills and sort out correct and useful information. Then religious moderation is also the key in understanding Islamic ukhuwah for generation Z. Generation Z needs to understand that differences of opinion and beliefs are natural, and dialogue and tolerance are the best ways to resolve differences.

The values of Ukhuwah Islamiyah that inspire generation Z in building civil society in the digital era include:

- Reviving the value of solidarity in digital communities: In this digital era, many

technologies are presented that can strengthen social relationships through digital platforms. Generation Z can use this technology to spread the message of Ukhuwah Islamiyah, such as organizing online community-based activities, sharing knowledge through social media, and others. (Ahmad Rusdiana, 2024)

- Tolerance and Inclusivity: Generation Z is known for its openness to difference and its commitment to social inclusion. Ukhuwah Islamiyah can be a spiritual and ethical foundation to build a tolerant, inclusive, and respectful society that respects diversity.
- Involvement in Social and Humanitarian Activities: Through ukhuwah Islamiyah, generation Z can take an active role in social activities such as assistance programs for the poor, natural disasters, or non-formal education. This activity not only strengthens brotherhood, but also builds a high sense of social responsibility.
- Positive collaboration in diversity: Generation Z is used to working in teams, collaborating on projects, and sharing knowledge. Ukhuwah Islamiyah can inspire them to build strong collaborative networks, across religions, cultures, and borders, to address global challenges and promote sustainable development.
- Moderation: Adopting a moderate approach to religion is key to preventing extremism and radicalism. (Elvinaro & Syarif, 2021)

Ukhuwah Islamiyah plays an important role in shaping the character and behavior of generation Z in the context of building an inclusive, just, and sustainable civil society. A deep understanding of the values of ukhuwah Islamiyah, as well as the ability to implement them effectively in the digital age, will equip Generation Z with the necessary tools to face global challenges and contribute to a better future for all.

This research has significant implications for a wide range of stakeholders, including educational institutions, religious organizations, governments, and civil society. Educational institutions can integrate the values of ukhuwah Islamiyah in the curriculum, teaching methods, and extracurricular activities. Religious organizations can develop programs that are relevant, innovative, and attractive to Generation Z. (Utami, 2018) The government can support initiatives that promote Islamic ukhuwah, empower Generation Z, and create an environment conducive to inclusive and sustainable civil society development. In addition, it is also important to provide Islamic financial literacy to generation Z. (Zusryn, Rofi'i, & Gani, 2021)

CONCLUSION

This research examines the concept of ukhuwah Islamiyah as a foundation in building civil society among generation Z, especially in the context of the digital era. The findings of the study show that generation Z interprets Ukhuwah Islamiyah through the integration of the values of brotherhood, justice, tolerance, and inclusivity in social-digital interactions. These values not only serve as an ethical foundation but also serve as transformative tools to address modern challenges such as digital individualism, disinformation, and polarization.

Generation Z, as a generation that is attached to technology, utilizes digital platforms such as social media to actualize ukhuwah Islamiyah in the form of cross-cultural collaborations, tolerance campaigns, and humanitarian initiatives. However, challenges such as moral degradation and digital radicalism require a strategic approach, including strengthening religious literacy based on moderation and the use of technology for Islamic education.

The implications of this study emphasize the need for synergy between educational institutions, religious organizations, and the government in integrating the values of Islamic ukhuwah in the curriculum and digital content, encouraging the active participation of Generation Z in social projects based on civil society principles, and strengthening digital and religious literacy to filter disinformation.

Thus, ukhuwah Islamiyah is not only relevant as a spiritual value, but also as an operational framework to form generation Z that has character, inclusiveness, and contributes to the realization of a harmonious civil society in the digital era. This research also opens up space

for further studies on the optimization of technology in strengthening Islamic values among the younger generation.

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