

# **Creating Child Friendly and Inclusive Environment in Pondok Pesantren**

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## **1. Introduction**

Pondok Pesantren is the place, where Muslims of Indonesia teach the students who will become Ulama (Muslim scholar). Pondok Pesantren is a boarding school. It is non co-education, it is totally separated among male and female students.

Mostly these pondok pesantren belong to Nahdatul Ulama. We, the Muslim in Indonesia, have two big organizations in da'wah, NU and Muhammadiyah.

Since the beginning NU were stressing their schools on the religion and Muhammadiyah were stressing their schools on general knowledge, taking the models of Dutch system. Formally, we called NU the traditional and Muhammadiyah modernist, but today NU and Muhammadiyah have already overlapped in their development. Usually the pondok pesantren located in the village, out of town.

## **2. The history of Muslim World**

Since the early period, the Muslim world compared to the Christian world was so diverse in their background. Although, Islam was revealed to Muhammad (peace upon him), in Arab, the extension of Islam soon reached Africa, Asia and Balkan. Before "Muslim World" was marginalized as superpower, the Turk and Mongol reached the central Asia up to Russia. We can see those Muslims were so diverse in background compared to Christians.

The glory of Islam could be found up to the beginning of 20 century. To day Islam are followed by 1,3 billion population of the world Muslim become the second largest population of the globe' after Christians.

Pondon pesantren were not originally from the middle east, the original place of Islam. It was found by Indonesian Ulama - NU in Java Island.

The basic references of pondok pesantren are the holy book of Islam : Al Qur'an and Sunnah (what had been said and done by prophet Muhammad {peace be upon him }).

## **3. Behavior of Muslim**

Every Muslim believes in one God and the last prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as his messenger.

The mission of Muhammad (peace be upon him) continued the mission the prophets from God before him.

Every Muslim believed Jesus as a prophet of God the holy book Al Qur'an, praise high the Christian, as follower of Jesus, as said by God (Al Hadid 27) :

وَجَعَلْنَا فِي قُلُوبِ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوهُ رَأْفَةً وَرَحْمَةً

*"We put compassion and mercy in their hearts of those who follow him"*

Every follower of religion is the same, looking up to the behavior or moral of their prophet. So every Muslim tries at their best to look up to the prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Ali 'Imran 159 explained to every Muslim, that the prophet is very polite well mannered person.

So before he became the prophet, Muhammad was respected by all tribes of Arab in Mecca. He called by them, 'Al Amin', the trusted person. Not only his behavior was respected but also his smiling was imitated, that's why the Muslims are called the smiling Ummah (people).

So that is why, Muslim scholars were asked by many scholars in Islamic Studies, what is the similarity of Islam in Middle East and South East Asia. We have many similarities and a few differences cause by the history and environment of the Middle East are dessert and tough, for us in South East Asia the environment are friendly and green. The history of south East Asia is different with the Middle East. When Islam reached this area there were 2 great religion, Hindu and Buddhist.

We, Muslims, considered them in South East Asia, as older brother in religion Islam and Christian as younger brother.

#### **4. Behavior Towards Persons with Disability**

In Al Qu'ran, the prophet Muhammad met with a blind person Abdullah bin Ummi Maktum. He was not so happy, because in early days he preferred the elite of Qurais (Arab in Mecca) converted to Islam. So God warned him about that in Surah 'Abasa: 1-4

- a. The prophet frowned and turned away.
- b. Because there came to him, the blind man (interrupting).
- c. But what could tell thee but that perchance he might grow (in spiritual understanding).
- d. Or that he might receive admonition and the teaching might profit him.

So that is why every Muslim must be polite and take care of disable and orphan. If not they are considered not a good Muslim.

In my opinion, Indonesian Muslim are welcoming and embracing diversity and inclusive teaching between persons with and without disabilities. Maybe what matter is only the terminology?

We have started in Indonesia how to read Al Qu'ran for blind persons since 3 decades ago.

In the era of information technology inclusive education may well be welcomed with open arm and warm smile by the Muslim community.

## **5. Conclusion.**

- a. In pondok pesantren, they are living with diversity of background.
- b. Child friendliness and inclusiveness must be encouraged, because it is not against of Islam.
- c. In the era of globalization and competition, persons with disabilities must be taught the best possible way, so that they are not the burden of society and family.
- d. The people perspectives in the villages of pondok pesantren must be enhanced by traveling and reading.

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