The Effect of Academic Background and Religious Orientation to Religious Fundamentalism among University Students

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Abstract
This paper discusses influence of the religious orientation and educational background of students to fundamentalism. This study involved 291 students of the UIN Walisongo and Diponegoro University (UNDIP). Data were collected using a Likert scale questionnaire and analyzed by multiple regression. The results showed that religious orientation significantly affected student religious fundamentalism with value of $f = 17.523$. On the other hand, educational background does not significantly affect student religious fundamentalism with a value of $f = 2.430$. Likewise, the interaction of religious orientation and educational background did not significantly affect student religious fundamentalism with a value of $f = 10.010$.

Keywords: Educational Background, Religious Fundamentalism, Religious orientation

Abstrak

Keywords: Latar belakang pendidikan, agama, fundamentalisme
Background

The fundamentalist movements have spread worldwide including Indonesia. In 2018, a survey conducted by M. Dja'far showed that intolerance and radicalism had developed in schools and colleges. 1 Statistical data said that of the student population (1,859) surveyed 51.1% had intolerant thoughts towards minority groups such as Ahmadiyah and Shia, 34.3% being intolerant to other religious groups, 58.5% had a radical view, and 48.95% of the students stated that religious education influenced them. 2 This was confirmed by the Head of the State Intelligence Agency stating that 39% of students had been exposed to radical teachings. 3

The vigilance of fundamentalism was increasing, especially in Higher Education, for reasons. First, students were agents of social change; 4 they have pivotal roles in changing and developing society. Second, students were psychologically at the level of late adolescents, which was an important phase in shaping their religious identity. 5 Third, students were a group of well-educated people who were expected to have critical and logic

thinking so that they had a strong stance when it comes to religion.6

The spread of religious fundamentalism in higher education was allegedly caused by the students’ educational background and religious orientation or religious attitude. 7 This hypothesis would be examined in this paper.

**Religious Fundamentalism.**

The term fundamentalism was usually related to "violence". This stereotype had been echoed by the West for centuries8 with various pejorative labels such as "fundamentalist", "militant", "radical", "terrorist", "modernist", "liberalist", "secularist", and so on.9 On the other hand, scholars described and analyze the movement as religious fundamentalism; the counterpoint to modernism and secularism. 10

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6 Bahari, “Fundamentalisme agama Mahasiswa (Studi tentang Pengaruh Kepribadian, Keterlibatan Organisasi, Hasil Belajar Pendidikan Agama, dan Lingkungan Pendidikan terhadap Toleransi Mahasiswa Berbeda Agama pada 7 Perguruan Tinggi Umum Negeri),” p. 10.
This movement emerged in Christianity and the term referred to the movement that occurred in America in the late decades of the 19th and early 20th century. Unlike in the context of Islam, the first fundamentalism movement was not a religious phenomenon but rather a social one in the form of religion. This movement always points up to four things; *tajdid* movement, reaction to modernists, reaction to westernization, and belief in Islam as an alternative ideology.\(^{11}\)

Pyszczynski, Solomon, and Greenberg (2003) state that fundamentalism was a religious ideology that contained the absolute truth of life, which makes individuals psychologically benefit from the religion. Herriot (2007) defined religious fundamentalism as a pattern of militancy (though not always radical) of a group of people who considered themselves as the true adherents who prevented the decadence of religious identity and fortify the boundaries of their religious community. Moaddel and Karabenick (2008) state that fundamentalism was a unique set of religious beliefs and attitudes, including adherence to religious norms, ideologies of universality and eternal principles, and the validity of claims for human happiness.\(^{12}\)

Fundamentalism had several characteristics. First, *scripturalism*; a literal belief in the scriptures as the word of God which were considered being free of error. Second, the rejection


\(^{12}\) Baidi Bukhori, “Toleransi Umat terhadap Kristiani Ditinjau dari Fundamentalisme Agama dan Kontrol Diri; Studi pada Jamaah Majelis Taklim Di Kota Semarang”, p. 32.
of hermeneutics. In the fundamentalism view, the text of The Qur'an must be taken literally as it reads. In this context, reason was not being able to provide a proper interpretation to the text, even to the Qur’anic texts that contradicted each other. Third, the rejection of pluralism and relativism which were considered to undermine the sanctity of the text. Fourth, the rejection of historical and sociological developments which were considered to bring humans further and further away from the literal doctrine of the scriptures.  

In general, the factors of the fundamentalism movement were as follows; (1) Social Politics, (2) Religious Emotions, (3) Culture, (4) Government Policies. 

**Educational Background**

Educational background here meant the educational environment of students before pursuing Higher Education. Sertain (American psychologist) explains that the word environment covered all the conditions in this world that in certain ways affect our behavior, growth, development or processes. As in the *hadith* narrated by Bukhari:

ما من مولود يولد علي الفطرة فا بواه يهود ان او ينصرا نه او يمجسا نه

This hadith confirmed that individual development was not only influenced by genetic, but also environmental factors.

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16 Abu Abdullah bin Ismail al-Bukhari, (Jakarta, almahira, 2012), hadith no. 609
Environment could shape someone’s personality, character, and habits.

Type of education was divided into 2 (two), namely: first, the homogeneous educational environment was also called mono-cultural environment which tended to have one same culture within the school/education environment in terms of social status, religion, or ethnicity. Homogeneous (mono-cultural) education also tended to disregard differences and plurality, thereby blocking critical and creative personal growth.17 This was reinforced by the opinion of Calvin S. Hall, Gardner Lindzey, who asserted “a homogeneous or undifferentiated is one in which all the facts are equally influential upon the person. In such an environment the person would have perfect freedom of movement since there would be no barriers to impede him or her”.18

Second, heterogeneous educational environment was a learning environment in which in some aspects was a tendency for diversity, or even it was a diverse environment. Heterogeneous educational environment creates open-minded students having willingness to understand and appreciate the existing diversity.19 Heterogeneous education environment was also called multicultural education, namely education that involves more than one culture in terms of nationality, language, ethnicity and others. According to Tilaar, multiculturalism education offered an alternative through the application of education strategies and concepts based on the diversity in society, especially those of students, such as ethnic, culture,
Religious Orientation

Religious orientation (religiosity) according to Allport & Ross (1967) was the extent to which a person lives out his/her religious beliefs, namely the way a person realizes and practices his/her religious beliefs. This was related to the role or function of religion on one's life that becomes the motive underlying other motives. Religiosity can be simply said that religion is seen only as a means to fulfill one’s personal life.

According to Batson and Ventis, religious orientation was a way in which a person runs or uses his religious beliefs and values. Allport and Ross (1967) explain that religious expression was divided into 2, intrinsic and extrinsic. Intrinsic orientation meant a comprehensive commitment to religious beliefs embraced and how a religion impacts on every aspect of one’s life. On the other hand, extrinsic religious orientation referred to the behavior of individuals who use religion as power through participation in group. In addition, extrinsic religious orientation was also indicated through behavior that uses religion as protection, escape, social status, participation in religious groups, and ego defense.

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22 Wibisono, S., & Taufik, M. *Orientasi Keberagamaan Ekstrinsik dan Fundamentalisme Agama pada Mahasiswa Muslim: Analisis dengan Model*
The aspects of intrinsic religious orientation are: 1) Bringing religious values closer to life; 2) Doing activities in worship places for religious purposes; 3) Personal prayers for religious purposes. The aspects of extrinsic religious orientation are: 1) Separation of religion from educational values; 2) Placing religion as social support; 3) Using religion through prayers for self-comfort. 23

Slightly different from Allport and Ross, Panikkar classified diversity into three, namely extrinsic, intrinsic, and parallelism.24 While Komarudin Hidayat mentioned five typologies of religious attitudes, namely exclusivism, inclusivism, pluralism, eclectivism, and universalism.25

The intrinsic aspects of religious orientation were: 1) Bringing religious values closer to life; 2) Conducting activities religious places for religious purposes; 3) Personal prayers for religious purposes. The extrinsic aspects of religious orientation were: 1) Separation of religion from educational values; 2) Placing religion for social support; 3) Utilizing religion through prayer for self-comfort.26

References:


Result of Research Description.

Before hypothesis testing, it would first test the normality of the data. The data used in this test were religious orientation (X1), educational environment (X2), and religious fundamentalism (Y) using Kolmogorov Smirnov with the following results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Normality Test Results SPSS 16.0</th>
<th>One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unstandardized Predicted Value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal Parameters(^{a,b})</td>
<td>Mean 42.9896907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Std. Deviation 1.17565188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Extreme Differences</td>
<td>Absolute .052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Positive .047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negative -.052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Statistic</td>
<td>.052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td>.056(^{c})</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Test distribution is Normal.
b. Calculated from data.
c. Lilliefors Significance Correction.

The normality testing criteria was:
If Sig. > 0.05 = normally distributed data

Based on SPSS output, it was known that the Asymp value. Sig was 0.056 greater than 0.05, so it could be concluded that the data were normally distributed.

Simple Regression Test of Variable X1 against Y

Based on the data obtained, the next step was to look for averages and standard deviations on variable X1 (religious orientation) and Y variable (religious fundamentalism) using the SPSS program, and produced the following output:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Sum of Squares</th>
<th>Df</th>
<th>Mean Square</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regression</td>
<td>352.548</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>352.548</td>
<td>17.523</td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residual</td>
<td>5814.421</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>20.119</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6166.969</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Dependent Variable: Fundamentalism
b. Predictors: (Constant), Religious_Orientation

Based on the above results f arithmetic = 17.523 f table of 3.87 then f arithmetic> f table was thus declared significant, and the significance value was 0.000 with a significance level of 0.05, then 0.000 <0.05 so that Ho: was rejected, meaning that both (X1 and Y) there was a correlation or relationship.

Simple Regression Test of Variable X2 against Y

Based on the data, the next step was to look for averages and standard deviations on the X2 variable (educational environment) and Y variable (fundamentalism) using the SPSS program, and produced the following output:
ANOVA\textsuperscript{a}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sum of Squares</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Mean Square</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regression</td>
<td>51.429</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>51.429</td>
<td>2.430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residual</td>
<td>6115.5</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>21.161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6166.9</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>290</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{a} Dependent Variable: Fundamentalism

\textsuperscript{b} Predictors: (Constant), Educational\_Environment

Based on the results of f arithmetic = 2.430 f table of 3.87 then f arithmetic <f table was thus declared insignificant, and a significance value of 0.120 with a significance level of 0.05, then 0.120 > 0.05 so that Ho: was accepted, meaning that both (X2 and Y ) there was no correlation or relationship.

**Multiple Regression Test of Variables X1, X2 against Y**

Multiple linear regression test was used to find out how much influence or contribution of variable X1 (religious orientation) variable X2 (educational environment) to variable Y (fundamentalism), the value of multiple regression coefficients was as follows:
ANOVAA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Sum of Squares</th>
<th>Df</th>
<th>Mean Square</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regression</td>
<td>400.826</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>200.413</td>
<td>10.010</td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residual</td>
<td>5766.14</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>20.021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6166.96</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Dependent Variable: Fundamentalism
b. Predictors: (Constant), Educational_Environment, Religious_Orientation

Based on the ANOVA table, the $f_{\text{arithmetic}} = 10.010$ $f_{\text{table}}$ of 3.027 for a significance level of 5%, then $f_{\text{arithmetic}} > f_{\text{table}}$ was thus declared significant, based on a significance value of 0.000 and a significance level of 0.05. Then $0.000 < 0.05$. So $H_0$: REJECTED, meaning that all three variables ($X_1$, $X_2$ and $Y$) had a correlation or relationship.

Analysis and Discussion

The results of the data analysis presented previously support the hypothesis of the main effect supporting diversity, but did not support the hypothesis of the main effect of educational background, and the effect of interactions between or across sustainability and educational background. As expected, factors of religious orientation and educational background possessed by students had influenced religious fundamentalism towards other groups. But the educational background and the interaction between the two did not affect religious fundamentalism in college students in Semarang. Thus, differences in one factor across other factors were consistently reflected in differences in religious fundamentalism.
The government as a policy maker and education practitioners must revitalize the courses of citizenship education, and religion. By understanding the citizenship, students were directed to foster a spirit of nationality and responsible citizenship and anti-radicalism. In addition, through religious education students would be directed to strengthen the perspective of national diversity and be oriented towards strengthening intellectual attitudes about religious diversity and intra-religious and inter-religious tolerance as well as between religious communities and the state. Apart from aspects of the curriculum that should be taught in the campus environment, encouraging efforts were needed so that the organizations formed in higher education were more effectively attended by students. From the scope of this organization students would truly be trained to live in a heterogeneous society, had a diversity of ways to interact, had a variety of ways to interact, have a variety of ideas of creativity and views.

This would be more conducive, if supported by mass media and social media that intensively socialize the values of pluralism that was anti-radicalism. Through this social media support, it was hoped that synergistically it would support the anti-fundamentalism movement that leads to acts of intolerance.

**Conclusion**

The Factors of religious orientation and educational background possessed by students had influenced religious fundamentalism towards other groups. But the educational background and the interaction between the two did not affect religious fundamentalism in college students in Semarang. Thus, differences in one factor across other factors were consistently reflected in differences in religious fundamentalism.
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