

Social communication from the perspective of religious and scientific moderation: Building harmonious dialogue in the digital era

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ABSTRACT

Social communication has changed entirely because of the advancement of digital technology, especially in the context of religious life. With an emphasis on initiatives to foster peaceful discourse in the digital age, this study explores social communication from the perspectives of religious moderation and science. Using a literature review approach, this study examined scholarly works, research reports, and current scientific sources on social communication tactics, digital literacy, and religious moderation. The results show that religiously moderated communication can be a useful tool for reducing polarization, lowering the risk of online extremism, and promoting tolerance and respect for diversity. From a scientific standpoint, digital literacy plays a vital role in strengthening the public's critical ability toward the flow of information, allowing them to filter extremist propaganda, hate speech, and hoaxes. Additionally, communication tactics that combine scientific methods with religious principles can make messages more inclusive and logical, while also enhancing their validity. To create a healthy, moderate, and long-lasting social communication ecosystem, this study also highlights the significance of multi-stakeholder collaboration among religious leaders, academics, educators, digital media managers, and the government. Therefore, this study claims that integrating scientific and religious moderation is essential for fostering peaceful socio-religious discourse in the digital age.

Keywords: Social Communication, Religious Moderation, Science, Digital Literacy, Digital Era

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1. INTRODUCTION

Social communication has undergone substantial changes owing to advancements in digital technology, notably in the context of religious life. Particularly for the younger generation growing up in a fast-paced, open culture, digital media has emerged as the primary platform for social contact. On the one hand, as global connectivity becomes more widely available, technology offers a great chance to increase interfaith and cross-cultural communication. However, technology also raises issues that can threaten social order, such as polarization, disinformation, hate speech, and cyber-based radicalism (Tantry Widiyanarti et al. 2024). To establish a peaceful, inclusive, and effective communication environment, this phenomenon necessitates a communication strategy grounded in religious moderation and bolstered by a scientific viewpoint (Wahyu et al., 2024).

The current state of affairs suggests that stories of intolerance are frequently propagated in digital spaces. For instance, in Indonesia, social media continues to be the primary platform for the dissemination of intolerable content, particularly among the youth (Nurul Hidayat, 2025). Digital literacy is an essential tool for combating religious extremism and hoaxes (Oktavian, 2024). Therefore, to foster good social connections amidst the flow of digital information, religious moderation in conjunction with a scientific approach is desperately needed (Az-zahra et al., 2024).

In an academic context, social communication is no longer viewed simply as a process of exchanging messages but rather as a mechanism for building mutual understanding within a multicultural society. Religious moderation exists as a paradigm that emphasizes balance, tolerance, and anti-extremism (Ginting et al., 2025). This perspective can be enriched by scientific contributions, whether through information technology, big data analysis, or interdisciplinary studies that help map digital communication trends and social media user behavior (Suhendra and Selly Pratiwi, 2024). In other words, social communication based on religious moderation and science is a strategic step to address the challenges of digital disruption while maintaining social cohesion (Puteri, 2025).

Three primary assertions can be used to formulate the research problem: (1) How may religious moderation in the digital age be interpreted in relation to social communication?; (2) How much does science contribute to the social communication principle of moderation?; (3) How might digital communication techniques foster peaceful discourse in the face of diversity? The requirement for communication models that are both conceptually sound and practically successful led to the creation of this challenge (Aziz et al., 2023).

In the context of the digital age, this study aimed to examine the relationship between social communication, religious moderation, and science. The specific goal of this research is to identify an integrated model that may be applied to promote healthy digital literacy, improve interfaith communication, and reduce the likelihood of identity-based conflict. Using this method, the study aims to produce a conceptual map that may be used when creating effective digital communication strategies.

The urgency of this research is further clarified by the fact that communication in the digital era cannot be separated from the currents of globalization, which bring values, ideologies, and even the potential for cross-border conflict (Pramudita, 2024). Without a moderated approach, the digital space is vulnerable to becoming an arena for ideological battles that threaten national unity. Therefore, this research is expected to provide theoretical contributions to enrich the study of social communication based on religious and scientific values, as well as practical contributions in the form of more moderate strategies for da'wah, education, and digital media management (Affan Najmudin, 2025). Thus, the results of this study can be utilized by academics, communication practitioners, religious leaders, and policymakers to build a healthier and more harmonious digital public space (Puteri, 2025).

Furthermore, this study also emphasizes the importance of collaboration between various parties: academics who provide a science-based conceptual framework, religious leaders who maintain the authenticity of values, and digital media managers who ensure that messages are conveyed effectively (Ulfa et al., 2024). This synergy is necessary so that social communication does not merely become a normative discourse but rather truly functions as an instrument for building a peaceful, tolerant civilization oriented towards shared progress (Mustafa, 2022). Thus, the urgency of this research lies not

only in the academic aspect but also in the social and practical dimensions of facing the challenges of the digital era (Susyanto, 2022).

2. METHODOLOGY

This study used a library research strategy in conjunction with quantitative methodology. Because this study focuses on a conceptual investigation of the interaction between social communication, religious moderation, and science in a digital context, this technique was selected (Aziz et al. 2023). Research reports, pertinent online media pieces, and national and international scientific publications indexed by Sinta were among the literature sources from which the research data were collected. To preserve context and represent contemporary events in the digital age, the study's main focus was on literature released during the last five to ten years.

The data-gathering procedure included the selection and classification of literature. Using keywords such as "digital da'wah," "religious moderation," "social communication," and "religious moderation in the digital era," researchers first found pertinent reference materials. Second, the trustworthiness of the chosen sources was examined, especially regarding journal indexing and publisher reputation. Third, three major themes emerged from the literature: (1) the significance of science and digital literacy in creating communication methods, (2) religious moderation as a communication paradigm, and (3) social communication in the digital age (Enceng Iip Syaripudin et al., 2024).

Thematic content analysis was used to analyze the data. To identify trends, parallels, and disparities in viewpoints, researchers study, choose, and analyze the literature. The categories created by this thematic analysis show the connections between the study variables. The ability of this technique to synthesize concepts made it possible to create an integrated conceptual model of social communication, religious moderation, and science in the digital space. By comparing scholarly works from various fields, including data science, Islamic studies, communication science, and sociology, this study used source triangulation to guarantee its validity. The purpose of this triangulation was to ensure that the research findings included more comprehensive scientific viewpoints rather than being biased only from a religious or communication standpoint. (Ainiyah et al. 2023). Furthermore, the validity was strengthened by referring to the results of recent research published in reputable international journals.

This research approach is significant because it produces both theoretical and practical insights. This study advances the creation of a scientifically grounded model of religious moderation-based digital communication using a methodical literature review and thematic analysis. The study's conclusions can be used as a basis for scholars, educators, da'wah practitioners, and digital media managers to develop innovative, sensible, and successful communication techniques to deal with the difficulties of the information disruption period.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The study's findings demonstrate that religious moderation-based social communication might be an important tool for lowering the likelihood of polarization, which frequently occurs in the digital sphere (Ropiah & Hafiz, 2025). It has been demonstrated that innovative communication techniques can successfully integrate moderation principles, such as tolerance, justice, inclusion, and respect for diversity. According to Khusniyah et al. (2025), social media platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, and podcasts can foster more amicable interactions when they are maintained with reliable content based on moderation standards. Given that the younger generation primarily obtains information and shapes their religious identity through digital media, this is becoming increasingly pertinent.

From a scientific standpoint, this study demonstrates that the success of moderate public communication critically depends on digital literacy. People who lack sufficient computer skills are susceptible to extreme misinformation, hate speech, and hoaxes that proliferate on the Internet. In addition to technical media capabilities, digital literacy includes critical and cognitive abilities such as the

capacity to assess, analyze, and validate information using scientific methods (Permana et al., 2024). Therefore, strengthening science-based digital literacy can enhance society's critical reasoning skills while building collective awareness of the ethical use of technology.

Additional analysis revealed that a successful digital communication strategy must combine a scientific approach with religious value-based content. This implies that reasonable messages about diversity must be backed by logical arguments and factual information rather than being wrapped in normative narratives (Affan Najmudin, 2025). For instance, a campaign against online radicalism will be more acceptable if it uses academic findings on the detrimental effects of extremism on societal stability, in addition to emphasizing religious considerations (Nugroho et al. 2024). In this sense, digital communication stimulates the public's intellectual awareness in addition to touching the emotional side. The study's conclusions also highlight how crucial multi-stakeholder cooperation is to bolstering religious moderation in the digital age. Individuals cannot be completely responsible for religious moderation in cyberspace because digital challenges encompass a wide range of factors, from the creation of information and the dissemination of narratives to the impact of social media algorithms (Aziz et al., 2023). Thus, religious leaders, academics, digital media practitioners, educational institutions, religious groups, and the government must work together. This partnership establishes a solid basis for developing a safe, welcoming online environment free from intolerable beliefs.

This multi-stakeholder collaboration can be implemented in various ways. For example, educational institutions can develop a digital literacy curriculum that emphasizes not only technical skills but also instills ethical communication values and interfaith understanding (Pratiwi et al., 2024). Religious leaders can serve as role models by conveying messages of moderation through creative, inspiring, and accessible digital content for the younger generation. Meanwhile, media practitioners and interfaith content creators can produce positive narratives through short films, podcasts, infographics, and collaborative digital campaigns that spread messages of tolerance (Rizal & Vella, 2024). The government, as the regulatory authority, also plays a strategic role in suppressing the spread of hate speech, hoaxes, and radical propaganda through appropriate policies and judicious oversight of the digital space (Edi Nugroho Saputro, 2024).

Another equally important finding is that moderate communication in the digital era serves as a bulwark of civilization. The consistent presence of a moderate narrative serves as a counter-discourse to intolerant and radical ideologies that often exploit digital space as a propaganda medium (Setia & Haq, 2023). Radical ideologies typically enter through simple yet emotional narratives, targeting the younger generation with their high social media usage (Amirah Diniaty et al. 2021). This is where the urgency of moderate communication comes into play: it presents a counter-narrative that is logical, humanistic, and based on religious values that are rahmatan lil 'alamin (blessing for the universe). The moderate narrative not only eases social tensions but also strengthens the nation's resilience in facing global threats, including issues of identity politics, interfaith conflict, and the infiltration of transnational ideologies (Batubara & Yuliyana, 2025). Thus, moderate communication can be understood as a cultural defense mechanism that protects social integration and national resilience.

Additionally, scientifically backed social communication-based religious moderation is a strategic imperative that needs to be put into practice rather than an abstract concept (Juanis, 2024). Society will be better equipped to deal with the dynamics of the information disruption period if the virtues of moderation taught in religion are paired with science-based literacy, which emphasizes critical analysis, data verification, and the capacity to filter information. Because of this integration, society is no longer just information consumers but also active participants who may uphold the standard of social communication in the digital sphere. As a result, this study has both theoretical and practical implications. Theoretically, by offering an integrative paradigm that links science, digital literacy, and religious moderation, this research adds to the corpus of social communication studies. Theoretically, by offering an integrative paradigm that links science, digital literacy, and religious moderation, this research adds to the corpus of social communication studies. In the context of the increasingly complicated flow of digital transformation, this research provides strategic actors with a road map for creating social communication that is sustainable, healthy, and peaceful. This integrated paradigm can be used as a

guide for educational programs, public policy, and digital da'wah tactics that are responsive to contemporary issues. Therefore, religious moderation is a holistic solution for maintaining diversity and bolstering national unity in the digital age, not just rhetoric.

4. CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that social communication grounded in science and religious moderation is strategically important for fostering peaceful discourse in the digital age. While science fosters critical and selective attitudes toward information through digital literacy, religious moderation provides a moral basis for promoting tolerance and combating hate speech. When the two are combined, an inclusive, flexible, and pertinent communication strategy for public policy, education, and digital da'wah is produced. This study suggests cross-sector cooperation and empirical testing in order to make religious moderation a reality in preserving societal peace in the digital sphere rather than just a theoretical concept.

Therefore, it can be said that the degree to which religious moderation and scientific literacy may coexist will have a significant impact on social communication in the digital age. These two components not only work well together, but they also form the main framework for developing a productive, meaningful, and healthy digital environment. Indonesia has a fantastic chance to become a worldwide role model in creating a digital civilization that is just, equitable, and based on universal humanitarian principles if this synergy is continuously cultivated.

Ethical Approval

Ethical approval was not required for this study.

Informed Consent Statement

All participants were informed of the purpose of the study, and informed consent was obtained prior to data collection. Participation was voluntary, and all responses were kept confidential and used solely for academic research purposes.

Disclosure statement

The authors declare no potential conflicts of interest was reported by the author(s).

Data Availability Statement

The data presented in this study are available on request from the corresponding author due to privacy reasons.

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Notes on Contributors

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