

## The Concept of Harmony in Javanese Society

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Harmony is an important value that guides the behavior of Javanese. The purpose of this study is to explore the meaning of harmony for Javanese. Data were collected through in depth interviews of 12 participants, consisting of four fathers, four mothers, and four teenagers from Surakarta. Harmony is identified as maintaining connections, compatibility, resolving conflicts peacefully and empathy. Harmony consists of two categories, pseudo-harmony and essential harmony. Pseudo-harmony is maintaining relationship by burying conflicts. Essential harmony is maintaining harmony in togetherness with empathy toward each other. The implication of this study on the realm of education is discussed.

*Keywords:* exploration study, indicator of harmony, Javanese

Rukun merupakan salah satu nilai penting yang memandu perilaku orang Jawa. Studi ini bertujuan mengeksplorasi makna rukun bagi orang Jawa. Data diperoleh melalui wawancara mendalam pada 12 partisipan, terdiri atas empat ayah, empat ibu, dan empat remaja yang berasal dari Surakarta. Rukun dicirikan dengan menjaga keterhubungan, menjaga keselarasan, serta mengelola konflik dan bersikap peduli. Rukun mewujudkan dalam dua kategori yakni rukun semu dan rukun esensial. Rukun semu berarti menjaga keterhubungan dengan memendam konflik. Rukun esensial adalah menjaga harmoni dalam kebersamaan disertai sikap saling peduli. Didiskusikan implikasi hasil penelitian pada dunia pendidikan.

*Kata kunci:* studi eksplorasi, indikator rukun, orang Jawa

Harmony is a term that has been around in the society for a long time. The term itself comes from an English word, harmonious. Harmonious relationship means a relation that is harmonious in nature. Harmony itself means a state of suitability and peace (Echols & Shadily, 2005). The word harmony is a concept that refers to the achievement of balance in a relationship (Kwan, Bond, & Singelis, 1997). Han (2008) states that social harmony is a complex phenomenon that exists in social psychology. It determines interaction between social value, people, and society. In order for a society to function properly, all of its components need to cooperate. There is togetherness in cooperation, but it also means that conflicts, compromises, and mutual benefits are inevitable.

Social harmony in Javanese society is seen as an important thing to be maintained. Individuals are advised to continually maintain harmonious relationship in their

social lives. In reality, there are many disharmonious behaviors that disrupt or even damage social harmony every day. In the recent news, there is a rise on individual as well as group conflicts, such as teenage riots and inter-village conflicts. Vertical and horizontal conflicts are also commonly seen on the news. Even inter-ethnic conflicts have happened many times for various reasons, such as the conflict between the Maduran and the Dayak at Sampit.

Alongside the various conflicts that devastate society, an individualistic lifestyle is also on the rise. Communication technology advancements bring about a new lifestyle, including the myriad of people that enjoy communication through the virtual world. The effects of such a lifestyle have the potential to erode the warmth of direct social interaction between individuals and slowly replacing it with indirect interaction through social media. Society's love of communicating through social media decreases the empathy of individuals toward each others.

The effects are also seen in group activities done by the communities. Phenomena of lending a hand and volunteering frequently seen in the old days are

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