

# Teacher's Understanding of Multicultural Education, Religious Intolerance, and Local Wisdom in the Praxis of School Education in Yogyakarta

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## ABSTRACT

*Increasing the strengthening of religion-based identity in the school environment raises the issue of religious intolerance which reduces the spirit of diversity in the dynamics of socio-cultural life. Multicultural education is an important alternative in caring for diversity and building a multicultural society like Indonesia. Meanwhile, the teacher's position is quite strategic to develop multicultural education not only in the school environment but also in society in general. This study aims to determine and analyze elementary school teachers' understanding of multicultural education and its implementation in everyday life. This research method is a case study, namely in the city of Yogyakarta with the consideration that not only has it got the attribute as a city of education, but also this city has declared it a tolerant city.*

*The results showed that the understanding of elementary school teachers towards multicultural education was essentialistic and some were constructivist or anti-essentialistic. Elementary school teachers have the imagination to develop multiculturalism in the school environment and Yogyakarta society in general. Most elementary school teachers admit that at the practical level there are still many acts of religious intolerance committed by some residents of the Yogyakarta community. Against such a reality, the attitudes and actions of elementary school teachers, both consciously and unconsciously, are also carried over to acts of religious intolerance. One of the factors that distinguish the content of religious tolerance and intolerance among elementary school teachers is their attitudes and actions towards local cultural principles. The higher the appreciation of local culture, the higher a load of religious tolerance. On the other hand, if the appreciation of local cultural traditions is low, the more likely it is to carry out acts of religious intolerance.*

Kata Kunci: *Multicultural education, religious tolerance and intolerance, diversity*