

The Inter-generational Change of Religiosity amongst the Indonesian Muslim Society

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed to measure the inter-generational religious changes within the Muslim majority people of Indonesia. It has been widely acknowledged of the current resurgence of Islam within the social, economic and political life of the Indonesian society – known as the de-secularization or re-sacralization of the public life, which has a tremendous impact of the whole nation. Yet, the country has also been known for experiencing the secularization processes with the declining level of religiosity since the late colonial time and the following era after the independence. The dual-yet-contradictory process of the secularization and de-secularization has been happening in the country affecting the social-religious life of the Muslim majority; which is required an empirical examination to explain the reality in place.

The study followed a quantitative research method with the data taken from the IFLS (Indonesian Family Lifehood Survey) 2014 – conducted by RAND US and Survey Meter Indonesia – and involved 28.164 respondents across the country. The dependence variable was defined as the religiosity of Indonesian Muslim consisted of 3 dimensions including (i) general religiosity, (ii) attending congregation; and (iii) ritual intensity. While the independence variables referred to various socio-demographic backgrounds like (1) age – divided into generation of baby boomers, generation X and millennials; (2) economic prosperity; (3) sex; (4) education; (5) marriage; and (6) domicile. The data was later analysed with 2 statistical techniques; (a) Anova to examine the different of religiosity with three generation of Indonesian Muslims; and (b) Regression to examine the way the dependence variable – socio-demographic variables – determine the dependence variable – the level of religiosity of three generations.

The study resulted 2 primary findings from those statistical analysis underscoring the facts that, *first*, the existing different level of inter-generational religiosity amongst three generation of Indonesian Muslims with the continuing decline showed amongst the millennials (aged below 33 years-old) compared to both baby boomers (aged above 49 years-old) and generation X (aged between 34-48 years old), and the generation X showed a modest level of religiosity which less religious compared to the baby boomers yet a bit more religious compared to the millennials. *Second*, the regression result showed that the change of socio-demographic factors – like social prosperity, education and living in urban area – influence the decline of religiosity within the Muslim community in Indonesia. The two findings provided a different explanation related to the general academic understanding about the rise of conservatism, religious intolerance and radicalism within the Indonesian Muslim society, which is started during the experimentation of democracy in the country.

Kata Kunci: *Religiosity, Indonesian Muslims, Indonesian Millennials, Secularization*