



Application of Wahdatul Ulum in Community Service

¹Muhammad Yunus Abdi, ²Bima Rizky Ananda, ³Muhammad hafizd, ⁴Muhammad Luthfi, ⁵Ilham nur Hasibuan

^{1,2,3,4,5}Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara

E-mail: muhammadyunusabdi@gmail.com

Info Articles

Article History

Received : 2024-11-01

Revised: 2024-11-15

Published: 2024-12-30

Keywords:

WahdatulUlum,
Community Service,
Social Welfare

Abstract

This study aims to analyze the implementation of the Wahdatul Ulum concept in community service and its impact on community welfare. Using a qualitative descriptive method, data were collected through in-depth interviews with program implementers and direct observation of community service activities in Baru Village, Batang Kuis. The results of the study indicate that the integration of various disciplines in community service programs produces more targeted solutions and increases the effectiveness of activities. Programs that implement the Wahdatul Ulum approach have proven successful in increasing community access to education and health services, as well as encouraging active community participation in social activities. Although there are challenges in understanding and communicating this concept, the implementation of Wahdatul Ulum has great potential to shape positive social change. This study recommends increasing the capacity of implementers through training and outreach to the community to maximize the effectiveness of community service programs.

I. INTRODUCTION

Community service is an integral part of sustainable social and economic development efforts. In this context, community service not only functions as a moral obligation, but also as a means to empower communities in facing the various challenges they face. Modern societies are often faced with complex problems, such as poverty, social injustice, and lack of access to education and health services. Therefore, a holistic and integrative approach is needed to respond to community needs effectively (Amin, 2024).

One concept that can be applied in the context of community service is Wahdatul Ulum. This concept, which means "unity of knowledge", invites us to see the interrelationships between various scientific disciplines and knowledge in an effort to solve existing problems. By integrating knowledge from various fields, such as social sciences, education and religion, Wahdatul Ulum can provide a richer and more diverse perspective in formulating appropriate and relevant solutions. Apart from that, the application of this concept also has the potential to increase community participation in the decision-making process related to service programs (Azhari, 2020).

The purpose of this study is to analyze the implementation of Wahdatul Ulum in community

service programs and evaluate the extent to which this approach can improve its effectiveness and impact on community welfare. This study also aims to identify challenges that may be faced in implementing the Wahdatul Ulum concept in practice. By understanding these dynamics, it is hoped that innovative ways can be found to improve the success of community service programs.

In an effort to achieve these goals, the identification of problems in this study includes several key aspects. First, how to integrate various disciplines in an effective community service program? Second, what are the challenges faced by program implementers in implementing the Wahdatul Ulum concept? Third, what is the impact of implementing this concept on improving the quality of life of the community? To answer these questions, this study will use a descriptive method with a qualitative approach. Data will be collected through in-depth interviews with practitioners, program participants, and other stakeholders, as well as direct observation of the community service activities carried out.

With this systematic and structured approach, it is hoped that this research can provide a meaningful contribution to the development of science and community service practices, as well as open up opportunities for a broader

implementation of the Wahdatul Ulum concept in the future.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a descriptive method with a qualitative approach. This approach was chosen because it aims to understand and describe the phenomena that occur in community service through the application of Wahdatul Ulum. With this method, researchers can collect more in-depth and comprehensive data regarding the experiences, perceptions and challenges faced by implementers and recipients of service programs.

The research stage begins with preparation, where the researcher determines the research focus and formulates research questions. Apart from that, researchers conducted a literature review to understand the concept of Wahdatul Ulum and community service. At this stage, researchers also prepare research instruments, such as interview guides and observation sheets.

Data collection was carried out through in-depth interviews with service program implementers, participants and other stakeholders. This interview aims to gather information regarding the implementation of the Wahdatul Ulum concept, the challenges faced, and the impact of the program on society. Apart from that, researchers also made direct observations of ongoing service activities. This observation helps researchers get a concrete picture of the processes and dynamics that occur in the program.

After data collection, researchers conducted data analysis by organizing the collected data and conducting thematic analysis to identify patterns, themes, and relationships between various elements related to the implementation of Wahdatul Ulum in community service. Researchers also compared the findings with previous theories and studies to gain a broader understanding.

The characteristics of this research are qualitative, so the main focus is on an in-depth understanding of the subjective experiences of individuals involved in community service. With this qualitative approach, researchers can explore the social and cultural contexts that influence the implementation of Wahdatul Ulum in community service programs.

The location of this research will be carried out in Baru Village, Batang Kuis which has implemented a community service program based on the Wahdatul Ulum concept. The selection of this location was based on considerations of

active service activities that were relevant to the research objectives. In addition, this location also has the potential to provide valuable insight into the application of Wahdatul Ulum in the context of the local community.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study indicate that the implementation of Wahdatul Ulum in community service programs has a significant positive impact on the effectiveness of the activities carried out. From interviews with program implementers, it was revealed that the integration of various disciplines in the planning and implementation of community service programs helps produce more targeted solutions. For example, in a program aimed at improving community education, collaboration between education experts, psychologists, and religious figures produces a holistic approach, making it more easily accepted by the community.

In addition, this study found that the challenges faced in implementing Wahdatul Ulum were mainly related to the lack of understanding of this concept among some program implementers and the community. Several implementers stated that they found it difficult to communicate ideas related to science integration to the community, which could potentially reduce community participation in the program.

From direct observation, it is seen that programs implementing Wahdatul Ulum are able to create better interactions between implementers and the community. Many program participants feel more motivated and actively involved in activities, which shows that an approach that emphasizes the values of the unity of knowledge can strengthen a sense of togetherness and mutual trust.

The impact on community welfare is also quite visible. Communities involved in community service programs report increased access to education and health services. In addition, they also feel a change in mindset and positive attitudes towards the importance of education and collaboration in the community.

Overall, the results of the study indicate that the implementation of Wahdatul Ulum can increase the effectiveness of community service programs, although there are challenges that need to be overcome. By understanding and overcoming these challenges, it is hoped that community service programs can be more successful in achieving their desired goals.

A. Analysis of Research Results and Comparison with Previous Theories or Research

In this research, the results of the analysis show that the application of the Wahdatul Ulum concept in community service has a significant impact on social welfare. An approach that integrates religious knowledge and world knowledge in service activities has been proven to be able to increase active community participation in empowerment programs, especially in the economic, education and health sectors.

In terms of economic welfare, the Wahdatul Ulum-based community service program, which includes entrepreneurship training and local resource development, shows an increase in income among the community. This training is given to groups such as housewives in the village, who are able to increase the production and sale of local products, leading to an increase in the family economy. This study supports and emphasizes the importance of integrating religious knowledge and worldly knowledge in the success of community empowerment programs. However, this study found that the influence was stronger in communities with a better understanding of religion, compared to those who were less knowledgeable in religious aspects.

In the field of education, the implementation of Wahdatul Ulum in a religious-based tutoring program has succeeded in increasing children's interest in learning in remote villages. Children are more enthusiastic about participating in learning activities when the material is delivered with an approach that combines worldly knowledge and religious teachings. This is consistent with Amaliah's research (2020), which states that the integration of religious and general education can increase students' interest in learning. This study adds that the success of the program is also influenced by the closeness of the community to local religious figures, who have an important role in building learning motivation among children.

In terms of health, the Wahdatul Ulum approach helps raise public awareness of the importance of maintaining health as part of religious teachings. Religious-based health campaigns not only emphasize physical aspects such as treatment and prevention, but also a spiritual approach that emphasizes cleanliness as part of worship. This study supports the results of Rahman's (2019) study which showed that

religious-based health campaigns are more effective in encouraging healthy living behaviors, especially among Muslims. However, these findings suggest that long-term interventions are needed to see more significant changes in public health behavior.

Although the implementation of Wahdatul Ulum showed positive impacts, this study also found several obstacles. One of the main challenges is the low understanding of some people regarding the concept of knowledge integration, especially among people with low education. This caused resistance at the beginning of the program implementation. However, community participation increased after a personal approach was carried out by community service activists. Fauzan (2021) also found that the low understanding of the community regarding knowledge integration can be an obstacle in the implementation of Wahdatul Ulum, which can be overcome with more intensive education and socialization.

The Wahdatul Ulum theory itself emphasizes the importance of the unity of knowledge as a basis for building holistic community welfare. In this view, religious knowledge and worldly knowledge should not be separated, but must complement each other to improve people's standard of living. This study confirms that the application of the Wahdatul Ulum theory creates a balance in community service, where spiritual and material aspects go hand in hand. However, the effectiveness of its application is greatly influenced by the local context, including the level of education, religious understanding, and support from community leaders (Yusuf, 2019).

This research expands the theoretical understanding of Wahdatul Ulum, which was previously viewed as more of a philosophical concept, now proven to have significant practical impact when applied in the field.

B. Application of the Wahdatul Ulum Concept in Community Service

The application of Wahdatul Ulum in community service is an integration of religious knowledge and worldly knowledge that aims to improve social welfare holistically. This concept teaches that the two types of knowledge should not be separated because both play an important role in forming a prosperous and just society. Through this approach, various community service programs carried out do not only focus on material aspects alone, but also prioritize spiritual

and moral values, so that the development carried out is comprehensive.

One of the real applications of the Wahdatul Ulum concept can be seen in the community economic empowerment program. In this program, the community is not only given technical training to improve their entrepreneurial skills, but is also taught the values of business ethics in Islam. For example, in the development of micro-enterprises, the community is guided to run a business with the principles of honesty, responsibility, and not hoarding goods, which are in accordance with Islamic teachings. As a result, this program not only helps improve the economic level of the community, but also instills Islamic business ethics in everyday life (Hidayat, 2021).

Apart from that, the Wahdatul Ulum concept is also applied in the field of education through tutoring programs and increasing the intellectual capacity of the community. The educational program implemented does not only focus on improving academic abilities, but also on strengthening morals and character based on religious teachings. For example, children in remote villages who were previously less motivated to learn, became more enthusiastic when the approach used linked general knowledge to religious teachings, such as science in the Koran or the importance of science as a form of worship. This reflects that the implementation of Wahdatul Ulum has succeeded in increasing learning motivation by providing a religious context that is relevant to society (Yusuf, 2019).

In the health sector, the implementation of Wahdatul Ulum can be seen from health campaign programs that are linked to religious teachings about cleanliness and physical health. For example, in the hand washing campaign, people are taught that maintaining cleanliness is part of worship and the sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. This approach makes people better understand the importance of health, not only as a worldly need, but also as a form of obedience to religious teachings. Thus, physical and spiritual health are seen as an inseparable whole, which ultimately increases public awareness of a healthy lifestyle (Nurdin, 2020).

However, the implementation of Wahdatul Ulum in community service does not always run without challenges. One of the challenges faced is the difference in the level of public understanding of the concept of integrating religious knowledge and worldly knowledge. In communities with low

educational backgrounds, this concept is often poorly understood, thus requiring extra efforts in socializing and explaining the importance of integrating the two sciences. Therefore, a personal approach and ongoing counseling are needed so that the implementation of this concept can be accepted and internalized well by all levels of society.

Overall, the application of Wahdatul Ulum in community service provides a significant contribution in building a balanced society, both from a material and spiritual perspective. This holistic approach not only focuses on achieving worldly goals, but also creates a society that has a deep understanding of their spiritual responsibilities. Thus, Wahdatul Ulum becomes an effective concept in creating a society that is more harmonious, prosperous and has noble morals.

C. How Effective is the Implementation of Wahdatul Ulum in Improving Community Welfare

The application of Wahdatul Ulum in community service is an integrative approach that combines religious knowledge and world knowledge in order to improve community welfare. The effectiveness of implementing this concept can be measured through the real impacts produced in various aspects of people's lives, such as the economy, education, health and spirituality.

In the economic context, the implementation of Wahdatul Ulum has proven effective in improving community welfare, especially through economic empowerment programs. This program usually includes entrepreneurship training, financial management, and local resource-based skills development accompanied by Islamic ethical values. Its effectiveness can be seen from the increase in family income among the people who participate in the program. This training not only provides them with technical skills but also teaches the importance of doing business honestly and responsibly, in accordance with Islamic teachings. The impact of this approach is not only an increase in income, but also the creation of a more ethical and equitable economic ecosystem (Ismail, 2020).

In the field of education, the effectiveness of Wahdatul Ulum can be seen from how children and the community become more motivated to learn when the educational approach combines religious knowledge and general knowledge. When educational programs include relevant religious contexts, such as linking science to the

Qur'an or explaining the importance of seeking knowledge as a form of worship, the community's interest in learning increases. This also supports the improvement of the quality of human resources who are not only intellectually skilled, but also have strong moral and spiritual values. Thus, Wahdatul Ulum has succeeded in integrating worldly and hereafter goals in education, which has an impact on improving welfare in the long term.

In the health sector, the implementation of Wahdatul Ulum has also proven effective in increasing public awareness of the importance of maintaining health as part of religious teachings. This approach not only covers medical and physical aspects, but also emphasizes cleanliness and a healthy lifestyle as part of worship. Health campaigns that combine modern medical science with religious values have succeeded in increasing public awareness of the importance of maintaining personal and environmental hygiene. For example, a handwashing campaign linked to Islamic teachings on cleanliness has succeeded in increasing public compliance with clean and healthy living behaviors. This shows that the integration of religious knowledge in a health approach can effectively improve people's quality of life.

However, the effectiveness of Wahdatul Ulum implementation is not free from a number of challenges. One significant challenge is the disparity in the level of understanding among the community. In community groups with lower educational backgrounds, understanding of the importance of integrating religious and worldly knowledge is often less in-depth, so that the implementation of Wahdatul Ulum-based community service programs requires greater efforts in socialization and education. Even so, through a personal approach and intensive counseling, these obstacles can be overcome, and community participation in community service programs increases significantly.

Overall, the effectiveness of the implementation of Wahdatul Ulum in improving community welfare can be considered quite high, although there are still challenges in its implementation. This concept has succeeded in creating a balance between the worldly and spiritual needs of the community, and encouraging them to actively participate in programs that improve the quality of life. The success of Wahdatul Ulum can be seen in improving economic welfare, quality of education, health awareness, and strengthening the spiritual

morals of the community. Thus, Wahdatul Ulum is a relevant and effective approach to creating a more prosperous society holistically (Rahman, 2019).

IV. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusion

The implementation of Wahdatul Ulum in community service shows a significant impact on the effectiveness of the program and community welfare. The results of this study indicate that the integration of various disciplines in the planning and implementation of community service programs produces a more comprehensive approach, so that it is able to provide more targeted solutions to various social problems faced by the community.

Through collaboration between education experts, psychologists, and religious figures, community service programs not only focus on academic aspects, but also on developing the character and morality of participants. This creates a holistic learning environment and helps the community to understand broader values, which in turn encourages them to actively participate in social activities.

The positive impact of implementing Wahdatul Ulum is also seen in increasing community access to education and health services. Communities involved in the program reported that they had more opportunities to obtain proper education and adequate health services. This shows that programs based on Wahdatul Ulum not only provide short-term results, but also form a strong foundation for sustainable community development.

However, this study also identified several challenges that need to be addressed to improve the effectiveness of Wahdatul Ulum implementation. Lack of understanding of this concept among program implementers and the community can be an obstacle in program implementation. Therefore, it is important for implementers to develop effective communication strategies and conduct counseling that can help the community understand the benefits of the community service program being carried out.

Overall, the implementation of Wahdatul Ulum in community service has great potential to produce positive social change. By addressing existing challenges and continuing to develop an integrated approach, these programs can be more successful in achieving their desired goals, as well as providing broader benefits to the community.

This study recommends the need to increase the capacity of implementers and more systematic efforts in communication to the community to ensure that the concept of Wahdatul Ulum can be understood and implemented effectively in community service.

B. Suggestion

Based on the research results, it is recommended that implementers of community service programs improve their understanding of the Wahdatul Ulum concept through training and workshops. This is important to ensure that all parties involved can communicate and implement this integrative approach effectively.

In addition, more intensive outreach activities need to be held for the community so that they understand the benefits and importance of participating in community service programs. By increasing community involvement, it is hoped that community service programs can be more successful in achieving their desired goals and provide a more significant impact on community welfare.

Finally, periodic evaluation of the programs being implemented needs to be done to identify challenges faced and develop improvement strategies. In this way, the implementation of Wahdatul Ulum in community service can be improved and adjusted to the real needs of the community.

REFERENCE LISTAN

- Amin, M. (2021). Pengabdian kepadamasyarakat: Kontribusi terhadap pembangunan sosial dan ekonomi. *Jurnal Pembangunan Sosial*, 18(1), 45-60.
- Azhari, A. (2020). Wahdatul Ulum: Integrasi ilmu untuk pemberdayaan masyarakat. *Jurnal Pendidikan dan Pemberdayaan Masyarakat*, 11(1), 25-40.
- Amaliah, N. (2020). Pendidikan berbasis integrasi ilmu agama dan umum: Studi kasus pada sekolah Islam terpadu. *Jurnal Pendidikan Islam*, 15(2), 123-134.
- Rahman, Z. (2019). Efektivitas kampanye kesehatan berbasis agama dalam meningkatkan perilaku hidup sehat di kalangan masyarakat Muslim. *Jurnal Kesehatan Masyarakat*, 9(2), 67-79.
- Fauzan, A. (2021). Kendala implementasi konsep Wahdatul Ulum di masyarakat dengan latar belakang pendidikan rendah. *Jurnal Studi Agama dan Masyarakat*, 14(1), 98-110.
- Yusuf, M. (2019). Pendekatan holistik dalam penerapan Wahdatul Ulum untuk pembangunan masyarakat. *Jurnal Ilmu Sosial dan Pendidikan*, 12(2), 88-99.
- Hidayat, A. (2021). Penerapan nilai-nilai Islam dalam pengembangan usaha mikro: Studi kasus pada program pemberdayaan ekonomi masyarakat. *Jurnal Ekonomi Islam*, 14(2), 150-165.
- Yusuf, M. (2019). Integrasi ilmu agama dan umum sebagai pendekatan dalam meningkatkan motivasi belajar anak-anak di desa terpencil. *Jurnal Pendidikan dan Pemberdayaan Masyarakat*, 12(1), 88-102.
- Nurdin, M. (2020). Kesehatan fisik dan spiritual dalam perspektif Islam: Integrasi ilmu dan agama melalui pendekatan Wahdatul Ulum. *Jurnal Ilmu Sosial dan Agama*, 11(2), 90-105.
- Ismail, F. (2020). Penerapan nilai-nilai Islam dalam program pemberdayaan ekonomi masyarakat: Studi kasus pelatihan kewirausahaan berbasis Wahdatul Ulum. *Jurnal Ekonomi Islam dan Pemberdayaan Masyarakat*, 11(2), 140-155.
- Rahman, Z. (2019). Penerapan konsep Wahdatul Ulum dalam meningkatkan kesejahteraan masyarakat: Studi kasus di daerah pedesaan. *Jurnal Pemberdayaan Masyarakat*, 8(2), 150-165.