



Radicalism Prevention Strategy: An Analysis of the Desa Siaga-Desa Damai Program

Irfan Fahmi Nooryadi^{1*}, Ahmad G. Dohamid², Mitro Prihartoro³, Rudy Sutanto⁴, Yulia Febi Zita Ronika⁴

Asymmetric Warfare, Indonesia Defense University

Corresponding Author: Irfan Fahmi Nooryadi ifahmi263@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: Community Empowerment, Desa Siaga-Desa Damai, National Security, Radicalism

Received : 5, April

Revised : 14, May

Accepted: 28, June

©2024 Nooryadi, Dohamid, Prihartoro, Sutanto, Ronika; This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Atribusi 4.0 Internasional](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



ABSTRACT

Radicalism is a significant threat to national and social stability in Indonesia. The Indonesian government, through the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT), has launched the Desa Siaga-Desa Damai Program to empower village communities in maintaining peace and preventing radicalism. The program is based on the great potential that village communities have in creating a conducive environment through education, training and active community participation. This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the Desa Siaga-Desa Damai Program in preventing the spread of radicalism at the village community level. Using radicalism prevention theory, social constructivism theory, and national security theory, this study analyzes various aspects of the program. The results show that the proactive approach and community empowerment used in the program are effective in reducing the potential for radicalism. Through training, coaching, and the use of information technology to spread counter-radicalism messages, the program succeeded in strengthening social cohesion and increasing community resilience against radical ideologies. In addition, the program is in line with Desa's SDGs goal 16, which is to create a society of peace and justice. In conclusion, the Desa Siaga-Desa Damai Program is an effective model in maintaining national security from the threat of radicalism by empowering village communities and improving their welfare.

INTRODUCTION

Radicalism has become a significant global issue, affecting many countries around the world, including Indonesia. This phenomenon not only threatens national security stability but also undermines long-established social and cultural order. In Indonesia, radicalism appears in various forms, ranging from extreme violence to the spread of ideologies that have the potential to divide society. Facing this threat, the Indonesian government has initiated various programs to prevent the spread of radical ideologies. One such effort is the Desa Siaga-Desa Damai Program.

The launch of the Desa Siaga-Desa Damai Program is based on the need to empower village communities to maintain peace and prevent the spread of radical ideologies. Village communities are considered to have great potential in creating an environment conducive to peace through education, training and active community participation. The program is designed to strengthen social cohesion and increase community resilience against radical ideologies through various activities that directly involve villagers. In this research using the formulation of the problem to be answered in this article are:

- a. How effective is the Desa Siaga-Desa Damai Program in preventing the spread of radicalism?
- b. Is the approach used in this program successful in achieving the objectives of preventing radicalism?

The purpose of this analysis is to evaluate the effectiveness of the Desa Siaga-Desa Damai Program in preventing radicalism at the village community level. This evaluation will include an assessment of the methods and strategies used in the program, as well as the impact of the program on the targeted village communities.

Theories used in this analysis include radicalism prevention theory, social constructivist theory and national security theory. Radicalism prevention theory emphasizes the importance of a proactive approach in counteracting the spread of radical ideology before it develops into a more serious threat. Meanwhile, community empowerment theory highlights the importance of active community involvement in prevention efforts, with the aim of increasing a sense of belonging and shared responsibility in maintaining security and peace.

Using these theoretical frameworks, this article will analyze various aspects of the Desa Siaga-Desa Damai Program to provide a comprehensive picture of its effectiveness in preventing radicalism at the village community level.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

National Security

In the context of national security, efforts to improve people's safety and political and social stability are crucial in dealing with the threat of radicalism. The national security strategy includes a wide range of measures, from countering the spread of radicalism through social media to character education

and religious education. Effective law enforcement is also one of the key elements in this strategy, ensuring that radical acts can be prevented and dealt with legally.

According to Alan Collins (2003), national security involves maintaining the resilience of the nation through economic, military, political and diplomatic power. National security is the state's ability to protect internal values from external threats, maintaining sovereignty, territorial integrity and the safety of the people. This approach emphasizes the balance of various elements of national power.

Barry Buzan defines national security more broadly, with three main foundations: ideational, institutional and physical. Buzan states that national security encompasses both military and non-military sectors, using political, military and economic power to deal with internal and external threats. This approach shows the importance of political and economic stability in addition to military power.

Anne Hammerstad (2000) expands the concept of security by emphasizing social, political, environmental and economic conditions conducive to a life of dignity. According to her, security is the right of every individual and nation, and the state must protect all its people. This theory focuses on human security, where the protection of individuals and communities is a top priority.

Radicalism

Radicalism is an ideology or sect that advocates for major and extreme change, often as a result of injustice and economic inequality. Some contributing factors to radicalism include social inequality, lack of access to education, and feelings of superiority. Radicalism prevention, or counter-radicalization, aims to prevent individuals who are potentially exposed to radicalism through persuasive approaches. These prevention strategies include character education, religious education, and multicultural education designed to anticipate and mitigate the influence of radicalism in society. Experts have various definitions and understandings of radicalism, here are some of them:

- a. Sartono Kartodirdjo, an Indonesian sociologist, defines radicalism as "a social movement that thoroughly rejects the ongoing social order and is characterized by a strong moral revulsion to oppose and antagonize the privileged and the powerful." According to Kartodirdjo, radicalism arises from a sense of dissatisfaction with social conditions that are considered unfair and unbalanced, with radicals usually wanting total and revolutionary changes to the system.
- b. B.J. Habibie, former President of Indonesia, defines radicalism as "a view that wants to fundamentally change an established order by violent or drastic means." Habibie emphasized that radicalism is not limited to religion, but can also arise in political, social, and economic contexts. He warned that radicalism could jeopardize the stability and security of the country.
- c. Soengeng Hadiwijono, an expert in political sociology, defines radicalism as "the desire to make fundamental changes in the socio-political system by extreme means, including violence." According to Hadiwijono,

radicalism usually arises from frustration and anger towards socio-political conditions that are perceived as unjust and repressive. Radicals feel that peaceful reforms will not bring significant change, so they tend to use violence to achieve their goals.

Overall, although definitions and approaches to radicalism vary, scholars agree that radicalism involves a desire for fundamental change and often uses extreme means to achieve that goal.

Social Constructivism Theory

Social constructivism theory is an important perspective that explains how individuals and communities construct social reality through interaction and shared experiences. Knowledge and meaning are considered to be actively constructed, not objective and static. Peter L. Berger and Thomas Luckmann, in their book *The Social Construction of Reality*, state that social reality is formed through externalization, objectivation, and internalization. Externalization refers to the actions of individuals who express their understanding of the world through language, symbols, and artifacts. Objectivation occurs when the results of externalization become objective and accepted as a reality that exists outside the individual, while internalization is the process by which individuals internalize objective social reality, making it part of their understanding and identity.

Lev Vygotsky emphasized the importance of social and cultural interactions in an individual's cognitive development through the concept of Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD), which explains that individuals can learn and develop with the help of others who are more competent. He also introduced the concept of scaffolding, which is temporary support provided by adults or more skilled peers, allowing individuals to gradually take over responsibility for their own learning. John Searle, in his contribution to social constructivism theory, highlighted the role of language as a tool for performing actions in the social world, rather than just for representing reality. His concept of intentionality states that the meaning of an utterance is determined by the speaker's intent and purpose.

Kenneth Gergen states that social reality is formed and maintained through interaction and negotiation of meaning, not something that exists outside the individual. Gergen emphasizes the role of language and narrative in shaping our understanding of the world and our place in it. Although social constructivism theory offers a valuable framework for understanding the construction of social reality, it also faces criticism. Some critics argue that the theory is too subjective and ignores the role of objective reality, while others highlight the lack of attention to social structures and forces that influence individuals' understanding of reality. Despite these criticisms, social constructivism theory has important implications in fields such as education, sociology, psychology, and communication, helping us understand how social reality is constructed and maintained through human interaction and learning processes.

Desa Siaga-Desa Damai

Desa Siaga-Desa Damai is a program initiated by the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT) of the Republic of Indonesia with the aim of building village resilience against the ideology of radicalism, extremism and terrorism. This program aims to create tolerant villages that are able to prevent the entry of radicalism ideology, increase village community participation in counter-terrorism efforts, and strengthen national resilience and maintain national unity.

The targets of this program include villages that are potentially vulnerable to radicalism and terrorism, villages with a high commitment to building a tolerant and peaceful environment, and villages with influential community leaders who are able to mobilize the community.

The implementation of the Desa Siaga-Desa Damai program involves various activities, such as increasing the capacity of village officials and community leaders in understanding and counteracting radicalism, fostering communities in building tolerance and national values, and developing the economic potential of the village to improve community welfare. In addition, the use of information and communication technology is used to disseminate positive information and counter radicalism, as well as to create space for dialogue and interaction between religious communities.

The benefits of this program for the village include improving security and order, strengthening community unity, improving community welfare, and building a tolerant and peaceful village. Thus, Desa Siaga-Desa Damai is expected to become a stronghold in preventing radicalism and terrorism from the most basic community level.

METHODOLOGY

The author uses qualitative research methods. According to Sugiyono (2019), qualitative research is a process of investigation and understanding that uses methodology to study social phenomena and human problems. Sugiyono (2019) also states that the purpose of this research is to produce answers, solutions, or recommendations to a problem from the object under study.

Literature Documentation Study Data

The author has collected data from various sources, including books, journals, articles, documents, and other literature, through library research. This data will be used as a reference to provide information or theoretical basis to achieve the research objectives and answer the research questions. In addition, the data will also be used as a source of information in the form of empirical studies to strengthen the arguments in this research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Desa Siaga-Desa Damai program is a strategic initiative developed by Indonesia's National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT) with the aim of reducing the potential for radicalism in rural communities. The program focuses on strengthening village community participation through various approaches,

such as establishing siskamling groups and village peace forums, as well as fostering legal deliberation through organizing community meetings and strengthening village deliberations. The Desa Siaga-Desa Damai program aims to prevent the spread of radical ideologies at the village community level, based on the need to empower village communities to maintain peace and prevent the spread of radicalism. Village communities are considered to have great potential in creating an environment conducive to peace through education, training and active community participation.

The effectiveness of the Desa Siaga-Desa Damai Program in preventing the spread of radicalism can be seen from several significant aspects. First, the program uses a proactive approach in counteracting the spread of radical ideology before it develops into a more serious threat. This proactive approach includes training villagers on how to detect signs of radicalization and report them to the relevant authorities. Second, the program strengthens social cohesion and increases community resilience against radical ideologies through various activities that directly involve villagers. For example, the program organizes gotong royong activities, skills training, and cultural activities that aim to strengthen the sense of community and mutual understanding among villagers. Third, the program uses information and communication technology to disseminate positive information and counter-radicalism, as well as create space for dialogue and interaction between religious communities.

Analysis of this program shows that this strategy is effective in reducing the potential for radicalism. In this program, villagers are provided with training and mentoring to use analytical tools and facilitate the processes described in the guidelines. This enables villagers to be more active in preventing and uncovering radicalism issues. The training not only increases community knowledge about the dangers of radicalism but also provides them with tools and techniques to identify and respond to the threat. The strategy also utilizes smaller social environments such as youth communities in each region or neighborhood associations (RT/RW) as the spearhead of the state apparatus. Communities know more about the conditions of their environment than anyone else, including in recognizing newcomers or changes that lead to radicalization from certain people/parties. Thus, the community can play a more active role in inhibiting, preventing, and uncovering radicalism issues.

The Desa Siaga-Desa Damai program demonstrates the effectiveness of radicalism prevention strategies by utilizing the potential of village communities and smaller social environments. This program can be integrated with the 16th policy of the Village SDGs (Village Sustainable Development Goals), which is to create a peaceful and just society. This policy emphasizes the importance of peace, justice and strong institutions in achieving sustainable development. Therefore, this program can be an effective example in reducing the potential for radicalism in rural communities. The approaches used in this program are also successful in achieving the goals of radicalism prevention. First, the program uses a persuasive approach to prevent individuals who are potentially exposed to radicalism. Second, the program builds tolerance and national values through character education, religious education, and multicultural education. Third, the

program improves community welfare through the development of village economic potential.

In the context of national security, efforts to improve people's safety and political and social stability are crucial in dealing with the threat of radicalism. The national security strategy includes a wide range of measures, from countering the spread of radicalism through social media to character education and religious education. Social media has become a very effective tool for radical groups to spread their ideology, so countermeasures through this platform are crucial. Character education and religious education play an important role in shaping individuals' mindsets and attitudes from an early age, so that they become more resilient to the influence of radical ideologies. Effective law enforcement is also one of the key elements in this strategy, ensuring that radical acts are prevented and dealt with legally.

In this study, radicalism prevention theory emphasizes the importance of a proactive approach in counteracting the spread of radical ideology before it develops into a more serious threat. This theory underlines that preventive measures taken before radicalism takes root are far more effective than reactive measures after radicalism has developed. Meanwhile, community empowerment theory highlights the importance of active community involvement in prevention efforts, with the aim of increasing a sense of belonging and shared responsibility in maintaining security and peace. This community empowerment includes developing the capacity of communities to take preventive action themselves, as well as building strong social networks that can detect and respond effectively to threats.

Thus, the Desa Siaga-Desa Damai Program is expected to become a bulwark in preventing radicalism and terrorism from the most basic community level. Through this initiative, Indonesian villages can be at the forefront of national efforts to counter radicalism, with an approach that emphasizes community strengthening, education, and direct community engagement. These efforts not only contribute to national stability and security but also build a strong foundation for a more peaceful, tolerant and prosperous society.

The Desa Siaga-Desa Damai program also has a range of co-benefits that support sustainable development in villages. In addition to improving security, the program also helps to strengthen community unity, improve economic welfare through skills training and small business development, and promote values of tolerance and diversity. As such, the program not only addresses the issue of radicalism but also supports various aspects of broader village development.

The integrative approach applied in the Desa Siaga-Desa Damai Program covers various aspects of village life. For example, the program works with schools to incorporate materials on tolerance and anti-radicalism into the education curriculum. In addition, the program organizes cultural and sporting activities that involve all levels of society, with the aim of strengthening social ties and preventing segregation. The initiative also engages religious leaders and community leaders in spreading messages of peace and countering radical narratives.

In its implementation, the Desa Siaga-Desa Damai Program uses an evidence-based approach, conducting regular evaluations of the effectiveness of the various activities implemented. These evaluations involve collecting quantitative and qualitative data from various sources, including surveys of villagers, interviews with community leaders and social media analysis. The results of these evaluations are used to adjust and improve the program, ensuring that efforts remain relevant and effective in the face of evolving challenges.

The program also emphasizes the importance of collaboration between various stakeholders, including the government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and the international community. This collaboration is important to ensure that radicalism prevention efforts do not run in isolation but are well-coordinated and mutually supportive. For example, the program collaborates with educational and research institutions to develop training modules based on the latest research on radicalism and terrorism. In addition, the program also works with the private sector to provide economic opportunities for villagers, reducing their vulnerability to the influence of radical ideologies.

As such, the Desa Siaga-Desa Damai Program offers a comprehensive and holistic approach in dealing with the threat of radicalism at the village level. The program focuses not only on prevention but also on sustainable community development, by promoting the values of tolerance, diversity and peace. Through various activities that involve active community participation, the program has succeeded in building social resilience and improving the welfare of villagers, while reducing the potential for radicalism and terrorism.

Overall, the Desa Siaga-Desa Damai program is a good example of how community-based approaches can be effective in preventing radicalism. The success of this program demonstrates that by empowering villagers, providing appropriate education, and creating an environment conducive to dialogue and cooperation, the threat of radicalism can be effectively addressed. The program not only provides direct benefits in terms of security but also supports broader social and economic development, making it an exemplary model for similar initiatives elsewhere.

CONCLUSIONS

Radicalism is a significant threat to national and social stability, including in Indonesia. The Desa Siaga-Desa Damai program, initiated by the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT), aims to empower village communities to maintain peace and prevent radicalism. The program harnesses the potential of villages in creating a conducive environment through education, training and active participation. An evaluation of the program shows that the proactive approach and community empowerment used is effective in reducing the potential for radicalism. By directly involving villagers in activities such as training, coaching, and using information technology to disseminate counter-radicalism messages, the program succeeded in strengthening social cohesion and increasing resilience to radical ideologies. In addition, the program is also aligned with Village SDGs goal 16, which is to create a peaceful and just society, demonstrating that the integration of local and national policies can be an

effective strategy in preventing radicalism. Through persuasive approaches and village economic development, the program not only builds tolerance and national values but also improves community welfare, making it an effective model in maintaining national security from the threat of radicalism.

In accordance with the concept of quality in education which includes input-process-output elements. So education quality control is also directed at input, process and output aspects. The quality of educational institutions will be realized if the entire system in educational institutions is oriented towards improving the quality of educational institutions, one way is through the implementation of Total Quality Management (TQM) where input, process and output are implemented well. Through the application of TQM, efforts to build a quality-oriented organizational culture structure can be realized in accordance with the expected competency targets.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the evaluation of the Desa Siaga-Desa Damai Program, it is recommended that the program be expanded and further enhanced to ensure its continued effectiveness in preventing radicalism. Future efforts should include conducting longitudinal studies to assess the long-term impact of the program on village communities, which will help in understanding the sustainability of its benefits. Additionally, incorporating quantitative data through surveys and statistical analyses can provide a more comprehensive evaluation, complementing the qualitative findings. A comparative study with similar programs in other regions or countries could offer valuable insights into best practices and areas for improvement. Furthermore, it is crucial to focus on the economic impact of the program, investigating how economic development contributes to radicalism prevention. Enhancing the role of technology, particularly in information and communication, can also bolster counter-radicalism efforts, including social media campaigns and digital literacy initiatives. Gathering feedback from community members and leaders will provide a participatory approach, ensuring interventions are tailored and effective. Lastly, integrating the Desa Siaga-Desa Damai Program with other national security and development policies will create a more holistic strategy, promoting both national security and community welfare. By addressing these areas, the program can be refined and strengthened, continuing to serve as a robust model for radicalism prevention in Indonesia.

FURTHER STUDY

For further study, pursuing several key areas to deepen the understanding and enhance the effectiveness of the Desa Siaga-Desa Damai Program is recommended. First, a longitudinal study should be conducted to assess the long-term impact of the program on reducing radicalism in village communities, providing insights into the sustainability of its benefits. Additionally, incorporating quantitative data through surveys and statistical analyses will complement the qualitative findings and offer a more comprehensive evaluation of the program's effectiveness. A comparative study with similar community-

based counter-radicalism programs in different regions or countries can provide valuable insights into best practices and areas for improvement. Further investigation into the economic impact of the program on village communities is also crucial, as understanding how economic development contributes to radicalism prevention can help refine the program's strategies. Exploring the role of technology in greater detail, particularly how information and communication technology can be leveraged more effectively to counter radicalism, is another important area for further study. This includes analyzing the impact of social media campaigns and digital literacy programs. Gathering feedback from community members and leaders to understand their perspectives on the program's strengths and weaknesses will ensure a participatory approach, leading to more tailored and effective interventions. Lastly, studying how the Desa Siaga-Desa Damai Program can be integrated with other national security and development policies will help create a more holistic strategy for preventing radicalism and promoting community welfare. Addressing these areas in future research will contribute to a more robust understanding of the program's impact and potential improvements.

REFERENCES

- Abdullah, Nabila Shinta Maulidia. (2021). Respons Pemerintah Terhadap Radikalisme: Analisis Wacana Kritis Dalam Pemberitaan Kumparan. Skripsi.
https://repository.uinsaizu.ac.id/9440/2/NABILA%20SHINTA%20MAULIDIA%20ABDULLAH_RESPONS%20PEMERINTAH%20TERHADAP%20RADIKALISME%20ANALISIS%20WACANA%20KRITIS%20DALAM%20PEMBERITAAN%20KUMPARAN.pdf
- Amjad, S., & Arshad, M. (2020). Community-Based Approaches to Preventing Radicalization. *Journal of Social Security*, 12(3), 45-60.
- Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Terorisme. (2023). BNPT RI Inisiasi Program Desa Siaga Dan Sekolah Damai Untuk Melindungi Masyarakat Dari Paham Radikalisme. <https://www.bnpt.go.id/bnpt-ri-inisiasi-program-desa-siapsiaga-dan-sekolah-damai-untuk-lindungi-masyarakat-dari-paham-radikalisme>
- Gani, Yopik & Godfrid Hutapea. (2022). Strategi Pencegahan Radikalisme Agama Terhadap Anggota Polri. *Jurnal Ilmu Kepolisian*.
<https://ejurnal.iblam.ac.id/IRL/index.php/ILR/article/download/95/86>
- Hadi, S. (2019). The Role of Community Engagement in Countering Extremism. *International Journal of Peace Studies*, 18(1), 23-35.
<https://unkhair.ac.id/pencegahan-radikalisme-dalam-lingkungan-kampus-di-era-milenial-suatu-kajian-sosio-legal-oleh-dr-nam-rumkel-s-ag-m-h/>

- Kementerian Desa, Pembangunan Daerah Tertinggal Dan Transmigrasi Republik Indonesia. (2024). Tekan Potensi Radikalisme Di Desa, Dirjen PDP Terapkan Strategi Penguatan Dan Forum Perdamaian Masyarakat Desa. <https://ditjenpdp.kemendes.go.id/berita/2024-02-21/tekan-potensi-radikalisme-di-desa-dirjen-pdp-terapkan-strategi-penguatan-dan-forum-perdamaian-masyarakat-desa/>
- Panduan Pelaksanaan Desa/Kelurahan Damai. Wahid Foundation. https://peacevillage.id/modul/Buku%20Panduan%20Pelaksanaan%20%20Indikator%20Desa%20Damai_WF.pdf
- Sudarmono, R. (2018). Program Desa Siaga-Desa Damai: An Indonesian Initiative for Community Resilience. *Journal of Community Development*, 10(4), 212-229.
- Universitas Khairun. (2018). Pencegahan Radikalisme Dalam Lingkungan Kampus di Era Milenial: Suatu Kajian Sosial-Legal. Oleh Dr. Nam Rumkel, S.Ag., M.H. <http://repository.radenintan.ac.id/28857/1/Disertasi%20Cover%20-%20Bab%20II%20Mas%20Agung%20Pribadi.pdf>
- Wibowo, Kurniawan Tri & Wahyu Hadingrat. (2022). Penanggulangan Penyebaran Radikalisme Melalui Media Sosial Dalam Hukum Pidana Indonesia. IBLAM School of Law. <http://eprints.walisongo.ac.id/id/eprint/7445/3/BAB%20II.pdf>
- Wikipedia. Kenneth J. Gergeb. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenneth_J._Gergen
- Wikipedia. Speech Act. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speech_act
- Wikipedia. The Social Construction of Realit: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge (1966). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Social_Construction_of_Reality
- Wikipedia. Zone of Proximal Development. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zone_of_proximal_development
- Wilson, T., & Rahman, M. (2021). Evaluating the Effectiveness of Community-Based Programs in Countering Radicalism. *Journal of Security Studies*, 15(2), 89-105.
- Zulfikar, Muhammad. DKK. 2020. Peran Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Terorisme Dalam Pemberantasan Terorisme Di Indonesia. *Jurnal Pembangunan Hukum Indonesia*. <https://ejournal2.undip.ac.id/index.php/jphi/article/download/7215/3701>

Zulkifli, A. (2017). Social Dynamics and Radicalization: Case Studies from Indonesia. *Journal of Political Science*, 25(2), 132-149.