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## Interfaith Relation During Galungan Festival in Pengulon Village, Bali, Indonesia

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### **Abstract**

*This research explores interfaith harmony in Pengulon Village, Buleleng Regency, Bali, which consists of three banjars: Tegalantang (majority Muslim), Bukit Sari, and Munduk Sari (majority Hindu). Using a qualitative approach, this research explores the tolerance that exists, especially when Galungan Day matches the preparation for the Prophet Muhammad's birthday. Data were obtained through interviews, observation, and documentation. The results showed that the Pengulon Village community was able to maintain harmony. Muslims can still carry out worship, recitation, and Maulid preparations calmly, while Hindus celebrate Galungan without obstacles. This tolerance is supported by mutual respect and good communication.*

**Keywords:** Galungan, Tolerance, Pengulon

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## INTRODUCTION

Galungan is a significant Hindu celebration in Bali that occurs every 210 days, according to the Pawukon calendar. This festival symbolizes the victory of dharma (virtue) over adharma (evil) and serves as a moment for self-reflection, strengthening family bonds, and reinforcing the spiritual and cultural values of Balinese society. In the context of a multicultural society like Bali, the interactions between Hindus and Muslims during Galungan highlight complex social dynamics. Research indicates that tolerance and interfaith cooperation are key to maintaining social harmony during these celebrations (Wijaya, 2024; Worang Matey, 2024).

In Pengulon Village, the Galungan celebration reflects harmonious interfaith relations. The Hindu and Muslim communities often collaborate on various aspects of the celebration, such as preparing decorations and organizing events. This cooperation not only strengthens social ties but also emphasizes that cultural traditions can be a shared asset that transcends religious boundaries. Ethnolinguistic studies of the term "Galungan" reveal that the values embodied in this celebration, such as respect for ancestors and self-reflection, have universal relevance that can be embraced by diverse groups (Matey, 2024; Dharma Duta, 2022).

Furthermore, Galungan is more than just a religious ritual; it embodies a profound philosophy of life. This philosophy teaches the importance of living virtuously and maintaining a balance between spiritual and social aspects. In the context of interfaith relations, the Galungan celebration in Bali serves as an example of how religious traditions can function as a medium for fostering intercultural dialogue and enhancing social cohesion. Thus, this celebration not only commemorates Hindu values but also promotes harmony within a multicultural society (Wijaya, 2024; Dharma Duta, 2022).

Previous research shows that there are diverse patterns of relationships between Muslims and Hindus in Bali. There are moments of cooperation and mutual respect, but there are also tensions that sometimes arise due to differences in religious beliefs and practices (Halimatusa'diah, 2018). This complexity is further explored in studies that highlight the historical interdependence between these communities, which dates back to the 15th century when Islam first established a presence in Bali. This historical context has fostered a unique relationship characterized by both collaboration and occasional conflict, shaped by local customs and social dynamics (Sari & Supriyadi, 2020).

Moreover, research indicates that social interactions between Hindus and Muslims in Bali are influenced by various factors, including cultural practices and community events that promote tolerance and understanding. For instance, shared celebrations and rituals often serve as platforms for fostering goodwill and cooperation between the two groups. These interactions demonstrate how local wisdom and cultural traditions can mitigate tensions and enhance social cohesion (Nurhidayati & Ula, 2022). The concept of "menyama braya," which emphasizes the idea of brotherhood among all humans, plays a significant role in promoting harmonious relations, allowing individuals from different faiths to coexist peacefully (Bertens, 2023).

In conclusion, while there are challenges stemming from differing religious beliefs, the overall relationship between Muslims and Hindus in Bali is marked by a rich tapestry of interdependence, mutual respect, and cultural exchange. Ongoing efforts to strengthen interfaith dialogue and cooperation are crucial for maintaining harmony in this multicultural society (Halimatusa'diah, 2018; Sari & Supriyadi, 2020; Nurhidayati & Ula, 2022).

In this context, Muslims' tolerance towards Galungan celebrations can be seen as part of an effort to build harmonious relationships. A study states that harmonious social interactions between the two communities are often triggered by historical factors and local wisdom that is still maintained. (Halimatusa'diah, 2018).

Local wisdom in Bali, such as the Tri Hita Karana concept that emphasizes harmony between humans, nature, and God, plays an important role in creating an atmosphere of mutual respect between diverse communities. (Made & Sena, 2020). Social assets formed through daily interactions also serve as a foundation for strengthening interfaith harmony. In many cases, the practice of intermarriage between Hindus and Muslims has created family ties that strengthen relations between communities.

Balinese people have strong social networks, which are formed through relations of kinship, neighbors, and customary communities. (Mahdalena & Niswatin, 2016). This network includes not only daily interactions but also involvement in social and cultural activities, such as religious ceremonies and traditional celebrations. (Raga & Mudana, n.d.). Active community participation in various social activities is an important indicator of social capital. (Ayu et al., n.d.). In Bali, communities often engage in *gotong royong* activities to keep the environment clean and repair public facilities. This shows a strong sense of collective responsibility.

This research aims to explore how interfaith relations are established during Galungan celebrations in Pengulon Village. Using a qualitative approach, this research will analyze the forms of tolerance and cooperation that occur, as well as the factors that support or hinder these relationships. The results of this study are expected to contribute to the understanding of social dynamics in Balinese society and offer models of inter-religious harmony that can be applied in other areas.

## **METHODS**

In this research, a qualitative approach will be used to explore interfaith relations during Galungan celebrations in Pengulon Village, Bali. The method will include in-depth interviews with key informants, such as community leaders, religious leaders, and local residents from various religious backgrounds. The interviews are designed to explore the views, experiences, and practices of interfaith tolerance in the context of the celebration.

In addition, participatory observation will be conducted during Galungan celebrations to gain a deeper understanding of social interactions and community dynamics. The data collected will be analyzed using the thematic analysis method, where the researcher will identify patterns and themes that emerge from the interview transcripts and observation notes. This analysis process

will be conducted iteratively, with the researcher triangulating the data to ensure the reliability and validity of the findings. With this approach, the research is expected to provide a comprehensive picture of inter-religious relations in Pengulon Village and the factors that influence social harmony in the context of Galungan celebrations.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The results and discussion on inter-faith relations during the Galungan celebrations in Pengulon Village show that the absence of inter-faith conflict is one of the characteristics of the local community. In the context of Galungan celebrations, Muslims show a high level of tolerance towards Hindus and vice versa. This can be seen from the active involvement of the village head, who is often invited to various Islamic religious ceremonies, reflecting mutual respect and support between communities.

### **Galungan Celebration for Hindus**

Galungan, one of Bali's biggest holidays, is always accompanied by preparations that are full of spiritual and cultural significance. Preparations begin long before the day arrives, with one of the most striking elements being the installation of the *penjor*. *Penjor*, a bamboo pole decorated with janur, coconut leaves, and various crops such as rice, coconut, and tubers, is a symbol of offering to God as a form of gratitude for the gift of life. The process of making *penjor* is done with great care, from choosing sturdy bamboo to decorating it with traditional ornaments. The *penjor* is installed in front of each family's house and is likened to a flag, making it a beautiful signature sight in every corner of the village.

In addition to the installation of the *penjor*, Galungan preparations also involve the *penampahan* activity, which is usually done the day before the holiday. *Penampahan* is the tradition of slaughtering a pig or cow as part of the preparation of dishes for family offerings and celebrations. This activity is not only a moment of mutual cooperation between family members but also a time to gather and strengthen ties. The meat processed from the slaughter is used to make various specialties such as *lawar*, *satay*, and *babi guling*, which have symbolic meanings as the best form of offering to God and ancestors.

Galungan Day is the culmination of a series of religious rituals for Balinese Hindus that are full of spiritual values and cultural traditions. On the morning of Galungan, Hindus wear their best traditional clothes and perform prayers at family temples and village temples. This procession is done as a form of respect to Ida Sang Hyang Widhi Wasa, as well as an expression of gratitude for the blessings of life that have been given. Offerings in the form of *banten*, *canang* and crops are offered with full sincerity. The atmosphere of the temple on *Galungan* day becomes sacred, colored by the solemnity of prayers offered to ask for safety, peace, and protection in living life.

After praying at the temple, Hindus continue the tradition by visiting the homes of relatives as a form of maintaining friendship. In addition, some individuals also perform prayers at their workplace. This tradition reflects prayers and hopes that the work carried out is always blessed, smooth, and protected from all dangers. These visits and prayers not only strengthen familial and collegial relationships but also become a tangible form of respect for God's presence in every aspect of life.

With all the activities that accompany it, Galungan Day is a moment that not only represents the vertical relationship between humans and God but also the horizontal relationship between fellow humans. This celebration depicts harmony in spiritual, family, and community life, making it a meaningful tradition for Balinese Hindus.

### **Interfaith Harmoni in Pengulon Village, Bali**

Pengulon Village, located in Buleleng Regency, Bali, serves as a compelling example of interfaith harmony, where a diversity of cultures and beliefs coexist peacefully. The village comprises three banjars: Tegalantang, predominantly Muslim, and Bukit Sari and Munduk Sari, primarily Hindu. Despite their differing beliefs, the residents of Pengulon Village uphold a strong sense of tolerance, particularly during religious holidays. For instance, during the Galungan celebration, Hindus engage in their rituals, while Muslims are able to conduct their worship without interference or obstacles (Halimatusa'diah, 2018).

This atmosphere of mutual respect extends beyond Pengulon Village, with Muslims actively participating in religious activities in neighboring areas such as Patas Village. They frequently attend recitations and engage in various Islamic studies at local mosques. Such participation underscores the commitment of the community to ensure that individuals have the freedom to practice their religion openly, even during significant Hindu celebrations like Galungan (Damayana, 2022). This dynamic illustrates how cultural exchanges can foster understanding and cooperation among different faiths.

Interestingly, this year's Galungan Day celebrations coincided with preparations for the Prophet Muhammad's birthday, an important occasion for Muslims. Despite these two significant religious events occurring simultaneously, the Muslim community was able to prepare for the Maulid celebration and conduct recitations smoothly. This harmonious coexistence exemplifies how diverse religious practices can be respected and celebrated within a shared community context (Wang & Huda, 2023).

The ability to balance these celebrations highlights the importance of interfaith dialogue and collaboration in maintaining social harmony. Research indicates that such interactions can enhance communal bonds and promote a culture of peace (Khainuddin & Huda, 2022). In Pengulon Village, the concept of "menyama braya," which emphasizes kinship among all human beings, plays a crucial role in fostering this harmonious environment.

Moreover, the interfaith relationships in Pengulon Village reflect broader trends observed in other regions of Bali. Studies have shown that communities with a history of interdependence

often develop mechanisms for conflict resolution and mutual support (Sari & Supriyadi, 2020). These mechanisms are essential for addressing any tensions that may arise due to differing beliefs or practices.

In summary, the harmonious coexistence observed in Pengulon Village is a testament to the power of tolerance and mutual respect among diverse religious communities. The active participation of both Hindus and Muslims in each other's celebrations not only enriches their cultural experiences but also strengthens their communal ties (Marselinawati, 2022). As demonstrated by the events surrounding Galungan Day and the Prophet Muhammad's birthday, it is possible for people of different faiths to support one another while maintaining their unique traditions.

Ultimately, the experience of Pengulon Village serves as an inspiring model for other multicultural societies seeking to cultivate interfaith harmony. By prioritizing dialogue and cooperation over division, communities can create environments where diversity is celebrated rather than feared (Nurhidayati & Ula, 2022).

## CONCLUSION

Pengulon Village in Buleleng Regency, Bali, is one of the real examples of harmonious diversity in Indonesian society. With three banjars representing the majority of Hindus and Muslims, this village shows how interfaith tolerance can be practiced. The Galungan Day celebration celebrated by Hindus does not interfere with Muslims in carrying out their worship or religious activities, such as recitation and preparation for the Prophet's Maulid. Vice versa, Muslims still respect the Galungan tradition, thus creating an atmosphere of mutual support and maintaining peace.

The daily life of the people of Pengulon Village and its surroundings, including Patas Village, reflects how diversity can be a source of strength in building social harmony. With mutual respect and close cooperation, differences in religion and tradition enrich community life. Pengulon Village is proof that tolerance is not just a concept but a real practice that can be realized in everyday life, providing inspiration for other regions to maintain unity in the midst of diversity.

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