

The Impact of The Presence of Jehovah Witnesses on Christians

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini menyelidiki dampak keberadaan Saksi-Saksi Yehuwa terhadap umat Kristen, mengeksplorasi perbedaan teologis, strategi pelayanan, dan pengaruh terhadap praktik keagamaan. Penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa meskipun terdapat kesamaan doktrinal, penolakan terhadap Tritunggal dan keyakinan yang berbeda tentang Yesus menciptakan ketegangan dengan Kekristenan. Saksi-Saksi Yehuwa menggunakan pendekatan sistematis, termasuk layanan pintu ke pintu dan penyebaran informasi digital, yang berkontribusi pada keberadaan mereka yang berbeda. Penelitian ini menyoroti bagaimana umat Kristen menanggapi gangguan dalam kehidupan sehari-hari, merespons upaya pelayanan, dan menavigasi perbedaan teologis. Dengan menggunakan metodologi kuantitatif melalui kuesioner, penelitian ini bertujuan memberikan pemahaman yang terstruktur tentang pengalaman dan sikap umat Kristen, membuka wawasan tentang dampak beragam Saksi-Saksi Yehuwa di dalam komunitas Kristen.

Kata Kunci : *Jehovah Witnesses, Christians, Trinity, Activity, Ministry*

Abstract

This research investigates the impact of the existence of Jehovah's Witnesses on Christians, exploring theological differences, ministry strategies, and influence on religious practice. This research reveals that despite doctrinal similarities, rejection of the Trinity and divergent beliefs about Jesus create tensions with Christianity. Jehovah's Witnesses use a systematic approach, including door-to-door service and digital information dissemination, which contributes to their distinct presence. This research highlights how Christians respond to disruptions in daily life, respond to ministry efforts, and navigate theological differences. Using quantitative methodology through questionnaires, this research aims to provide a structured understanding of the experiences and attitudes of Christians, providing insight into the diverse impact of Jehovah's Witnesses within the Christian community.

Keywords : *Jehovah Witnesses, Christians, Trinity, Activity, Ministry*

INTRODUCTION

Jehovah's Witnesses are a religious group known for their unique beliefs and practices. The Christian denomination, known as Jehovah's Witnesses. Introduced to Indonesia by Australian missionary Frank Rice in June 1931, Jehovah's Witnesses are recognized for their distinct religious convictions.

In the Western world, the organization known as Jehovah's Witnesses aims to restore the early Christian movement initiated by the followers of Jesus Christ. Generally, the teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses share similarities with mainstream Christianity, as they consistently adhere to the teachings of Jesus and his disciples. However, a significant difference lies in their rejection of the Trinity, acknowledging Jesus as a messenger but not as God.

This fundamental difference has led to Jehovah's Witnesses facing general non-acceptance and being considered heretical among Christian leaders in Indonesia. Their distinctive beliefs, such as abstaining from celebrating Christmas and Easter, Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe in the Trinitarian doctrine, refusing blood transfusions, and not saluting flags, contribute to their

marginalized status within the broader Christian community.

Jehovah's Witnesses' evangelistic methods, including door-to-door visits and distributing literature, are perceived by some as disruptive and coercive. Our research conducted with a qualitative approach through a Google Forms questionnaire involving 31 respondents aims to explore the impact of Jehovah's Witnesses on Christians. The findings, processed using SPSS, seek to shed light on the differences between mainstream Christians and Jehovah's Witnesses and the implications of their presence in the Christian community.

METHOD

This research adopts a quantitative approach using a questionnaire as the primary instrument. The main objective is to measure the impact of the presence of Jehovah's Witnesses on Christians. Questionnaire is a method of data collection carried out by providing a set of written statements or questions to respondents to elicit responses based on the user's request. In this research, the questionnaire is used to assess the impact of Jehovah's Witnesses on Christians, consisting of 30 statements and the alignment of these items with indicators. The questionnaire is carefully designed to cover various aspects, including perceptions, knowledge, and individual experiences of Christians related to interactions with Jehovah's Witnesses.

This method of data collection enables researchers to systematically gather information and obtain a broader overview of Christians' perceptions regarding the presence of Jehovah's Witnesses in their community. Quantitative analysis will be utilized to analyze and interpret the questionnaire results, contributing to a deeper statistical understanding of the impact. The questionnaire was administered through Google Forms, with a total of 31 respondents.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this study, a survey was conducted through Google Form involving 31 respondents from various backgrounds within the Christian community. Respondent profiles indicated diversity in beliefs and participation levels in church life.

From the survey results, it can be concluded that the presence of Jehovah's Witnesses has a significant impact on the perceptions and religious practices of Christians. Most respondents demonstrated awareness of Jehovah's Witnesses' teachings, although reactions to their presence tended to vary.

According to the survey on the disruption of daily life due to Jehovah's Witnesses, respondents provided evidence of disruptions such as visits to homes by Jehovah's Witnesses, distribution of brochures about their beliefs to the public, disturbance of harmony among religious communities, and other deviations.

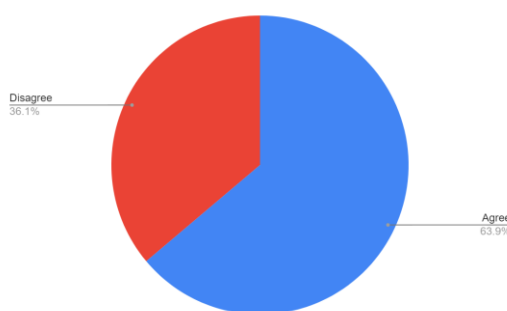


Image 1.

The following concerns the lack of tolerance from Jehovah's Witnesses towards the religious beliefs of others, their coercive and provocative attitudes to make people join the Jehovah's Witnesses, their exclusive behavior, and Jehovah's Witnesses' failure to acknowledge an Indonesian nationality and show respect for the Indonesian flag. Respondents agree with the intolerant attitudes mentioned in the questionnaire.

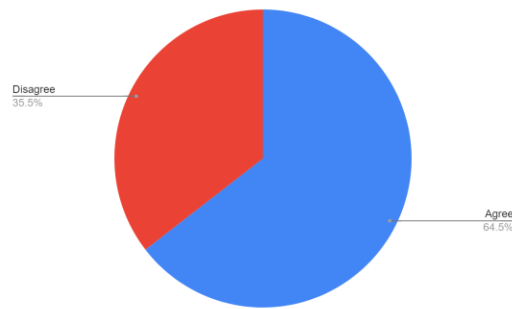


Image 2.

It is known that Jehovah's Witnesses have been officially banned by the Indonesian government from conducting activities and claiming to be a Christian religious sect, as they do not recognize the Trinity, refuse blood donations, and abstain from celebrating Christmas and Easter. Respondents agree that the activities of Jehovah's Witnesses are not in line with the practices of Christian believers.

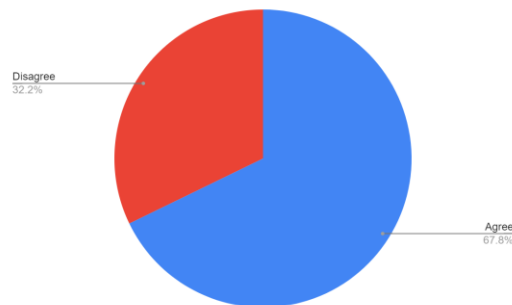


Image 3.

Furthermore, respondents agree that there are differences in Christian beliefs and Jehovah's Witnesses' beliefs regarding the Trinity, believing in the reality of heaven and hell, Christians tolerating other religious communities, and acknowledging Jesus as the Savior.

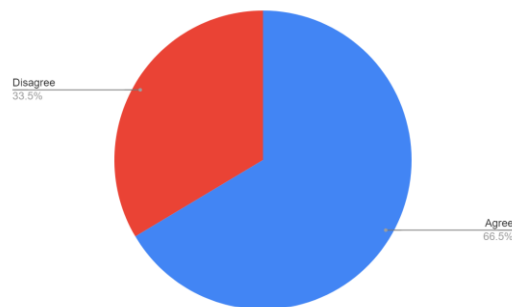


Image 4.

Then, respondents agree that they love fellow human beings, are willing to donate and receive blood, do not force people to adopt their beliefs, and believe that humans are creatures that complement each other without discrimination.

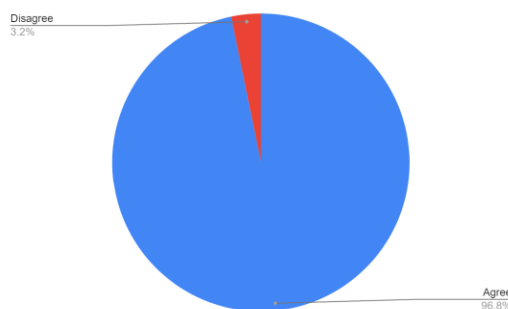


Image 5.

Lastly, respondents agree that as Christians, they engage in community and national activities, such as respecting the flag and other societal matters.

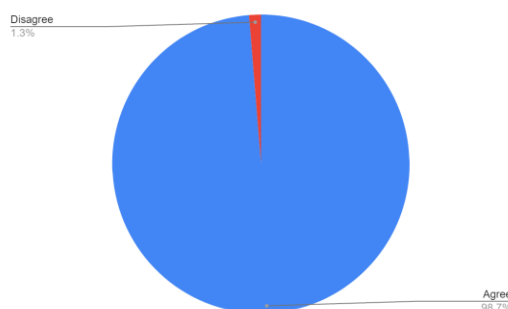


Image 6.

Discussion

The study reveals a nuanced impact of Jehovah's Witnesses on Christians, highlighting various aspects from awareness of teachings to disruptions in daily life. The respondents' agreement on the lack of tolerance and the banned status of Jehovah's Witnesses in Indonesia indicates a perceived divergence from Christian practices.

Jehovah's Witnesses employ systematic strategies for evangelism, including door-to-door service, literature distribution, and utilizing digital platforms for outreach. Their worship meetings, rooted in Bible study, singing, and prayer, aim to deepen members' understanding of scripture and its practical application in daily life.

The rejection of certain celebrations and practices is a notable aspect of Jehovah's Witnesses' beliefs. They abstain from observing holidays like Christmas, emphasizing the absence of biblical commands for such celebrations. Additionally, they avoid saluting national flags, considering it akin to idolatry, and abstain from commemorating national days or historical events.

The study on the impact of Jehovah's Witnesses on Christians employs a quantitative research approach, utilizing a questionnaire to collect numerical data. This method aims to measure specific variables, providing a structured framework for understanding the perceptions and practices of Christians in response to the presence of Jehovah's Witnesses.

The research process involves designing the questionnaire, data collection, and subsequent statistical analysis to draw conclusions from the gathered information.

The discussion could explore the implications of these findings on religious harmony, freedom of belief, and the role of government regulations. It may also delve into strategies for fostering understanding between Jehovah's Witnesses and other Christian denominations, addressing concerns raised by respondents.

Additionally, the contrast between respondents' perceptions of Christians and Jehovah's Witnesses opens avenues for exploring interfaith dialogue, religious freedom, and the role of individual beliefs in a diverse society. This study underscores the importance of recognizing and navigating religious diversity to promote mutual respect and peaceful coexistence.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the research on the impact of Jehovah's Witnesses on Christians reveals a complex relationship marked by theological differences and perceived disruptions in daily life. The fundamental divergence in beliefs, particularly regarding the Trinity and the rejection of certain celebrations, contributes to the non-acceptance of Jehovah's Witnesses within the broader Christian community in Indonesia.

The study, employing a quantitative research approach, indicates that the presence of Jehovah's Witnesses significantly influences the perceptions and religious practices of Christians. The survey results suggest a range of reactions among respondents, with common concerns revolving around the lack of tolerance, coercive evangelism tactics, and the exclusive behavior exhibited by Jehovah's Witnesses.

Moreover, the research highlights the government's official ban on Jehovah's Witnesses in Indonesia, citing theological disparities and practices that deviate from Christian norms. Respondents align with this viewpoint, indicating a perceived inconsistency between the activities of Jehovah's Witnesses and the practices of Christian believers.

The nuanced impact extends beyond theological differences to encompass broader societal issues such as the rejection of national symbols and reluctance to engage in community and national activities. This raises questions about the role of individual beliefs in a diverse society and the potential challenges posed by differing perspectives on religious practices and national identity.

In discussing these findings, it becomes crucial to explore the implications on religious harmony, freedom of belief, and avenues for fostering understanding between Jehovah's Witnesses and other Christian denominations. Addressing concerns raised by respondents may pave the way for interfaith dialogue and promote mutual respect and peaceful coexistence in the diverse religious landscape of Indonesia.

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