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## THE EFFECT OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND DIGITALIZATION ON THE STUDENT'S CHARACTER, SCIENTIFIC REASONING SKILL, AND RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE IN PESANTREN

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Cultural diversity in pesantren, Digitalization in Islamic education, Religious tolerance in students, Pesantren education and digitalization

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### ABSTRACTS

**Background:** In an increasingly globalized and digital world, understanding how cultural diversity and digitalization impact students is crucial for fostering well-rounded individuals. **Purpose:** This study explores the effect of cultural diversity and digitalization on the character, scientific reasoning skills, and religious tolerance of students in pesantren. **Method:** Using a quantitative approach with Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) assisted by SmartPLS, the research examines the correlations between these variables. **Result:** The findings reveal that both cultural diversity and digitalization significantly enhance students' character, reasoning abilities, and tolerance towards religious differences. Cultural diversity fosters empathy and respect, while digitalization improves access to information, thereby enriching scientific reasoning. **Conclusion:** This research highlights the importance of integrating cultural diversity and digitalization into educational strategies to cultivate well-rounded, tolerant, and intellectually capable students.

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## A. INTRODUCTION

The importance of santri character in education is the main focus for academic success and moral development. The character of santri, including morals, ethics, and the value of santri character, is the foundation in the formation of quality individuals. Teachers have an important role as agents of character building for students. Through good interactions, teachers who have good character are able to form an inclusive learning environment, support and motivate, and provide consistent moral guidance. Common problems that often occur related to the character of students include lack of academic integrity, unethical behavior, lack of responsibility, and lack of empathy and skills of students. Research by Jones and (Amzalag, Shapira and Dolev, 2022) shows that academic integrity is a major concern in higher education institutions. In addition, research by (Guerrero-Dib, Portales and Heredia-Escorza, 2020) highlighted the prevalence of unethical behavior among students, including lying, deception, and the use of illegal drugs. Academically, students who lack academic integrity tend not to develop critical skills such as research and analysis. This is because santri look for instant ways to achieve success. Therefore, supporting the character development of santri is important in creating a healthy educational environment and providing a solid foundation for the holistic development of santri.

In addition to character, the ability to reason is also an important aspect that must be possessed by students. However, there are still many students who have limitations in reasoning about certain scientific works. In general, the problems of scientific reasoning ability in students can include a lack of understanding of research methods, difficulties in analyzing and interpreting data, and a lack of skills in identifying and formulating relevant research questions. Research by (ALAM, 2020) found that most students had difficulty in understanding basic concepts in research methodology, such as sampling, research design, and data analysis. In addition, research by (Barroga and Matanguihan, 2022) concluded that students often have difficulties in developing clear hypotheses and formulating appropriate research questions.

It is also important for students to have an attitude of tolerance in religion. The importance of religious tolerance for santri is very influential in shaping future attitudes, values, and behavior (Mutaqin et al., 2024). Religious tolerance helps foster an inclusive attitude and respect for diversity. This encourages the formation of a harmonious school environment that is free from religious conflict. In addition, religious tolerance provides a foundation for the formation of critical and open thinking skills. Students are invited to understand different points of view and arguments, so as to train their ability to analyze, evaluate and understand diverse perspectives (González-Howard and McNeill, 2020). Thus, religious tolerance not only creates social harmony, but also supports the intellectual development of santri. However, in its application, the complexity of the school environment provides a problem in the religious tolerance of santri.

Common problems in religious tolerance for santri include prejudice, stereotyping, intimidation, and intergroup tensions. The impact caused by the lack of religious tolerance on santri can be very detrimental (Zamzami, 2024). Psychologically, students who are victims of religious intolerance can experience stress, depression, and low self-esteem. This can interfere with their emotional well-being and social development at school. Socially, the lack of religious tolerance in santri can reinforce the cycle of prejudice and intergroup conflict in society. This can create deeper cliques

between religious groups and hinder the development of healthy and harmonious intergroup relations in the future.

Based on the complexity of santri life, especially in the pesantren environment, there are factors that affect santri character, scientific reasoning ability, and religious tolerance, namely cultural diversity and digitalization factors. Cultural diversity in pesantren has a significant influence on santri character, scientific reasoning ability, and religious tolerance (Rohman, 2022). Cultural diversity can enrich the character of students with values such as tolerance, cooperation, and respect for differences. Interactions between students from various cultural backgrounds can open students' minds to diverse perspectives, broaden their understanding of the world, and enrich the learning experience. In addition, the negative impacts arising from cultural diversity in pesantren, such as cultural conflicts, stereotypes, or prejudices between groups. If not managed properly, cultural differences can cause tensions between santri or groups, and even cause conflicts that have the potential to damage the learning environment in pesantren.

The factor that influences the character of santri, scientific reasoning ability, and religious tolerance is the development of digitalization in the pesantren environment. Digitalization has a significant influence on santri character, scientific reasoning ability, and religious tolerance in pesantren. First of all, digitalization affects the character of santri through easier access to information and interaction with various cultures through social media and the internet. Santris can be exposed to new values and various views that can affect their character formation, both positively and negatively. The positive impact of digitalization on santri character can enrich santri knowledge of religious and cultural values, as well as strengthen attitudes of tolerance and respect for differences (Novebri and Pratiwi, 2021). Negative impacts can include the risk of exposure to inappropriate content, religious radicalism, or intolerance through social media or online platforms. Digitalization in scientific reasoning skills is a very useful tool for santri in pesantren. Santris can use technology to find information, conduct research, and participate in broader scientific discussions. This can improve their scientific reasoning skills and broaden their understanding of the world. However, the uncontrolled or undirected use of technology can also interfere with students' ability to concentrate and deepen their understanding.

Based on this description, this research is important to do. Research by (Rohman, 2022) empirically found that the digitization of santri activities, creative thinking, leadership, and the improvement of the digital environment in the school environment. While research by (Guerrero-Dib, Portales and Heredia-Escorza, 2020). It shows that cultural diversity is able to foster tolerance and love for the religion believed. The novelty of this research is the existence of cultural diversity and digitalization on the character, scientific reasoning ability, and religious tolerance of students in pesantren. Research by (Guerrero-Dib, Portales and Heredia-Escorza, 2020) using literature study with descriptive analysis. While research by (Rohman, 2022) Using a qualitative approach method with descriptive analysis. The novelty of this research is that it uses a correlational quantitative approach method. The novelty of the method is that this research uses quantitative with SEM-PLS

This research is urgent to be carried out because it has significant relevance and impact to overcome the problems of character differences, scientific reasoning abilities, and religious tolerance of santri in pesantren. In addition, this research provides

understanding and benefits in the form of sharpening theory, the basis for making policies or decisions on the application of the use of digitalization and cultural diversity in the pesantren environment. This study aims to determine the effect of Cultural Diversity and Digitalization on Character, Scientific Reasoning Ability, and Religious Tolerance of Santri in Pesantren.

## **B. METHOD**

This study employs quantitative techniques and a particular kind of correlation analysis. Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) method with intelligent PLS application support. This strategy was selected because it seeks to ascertain the relationship between factors related to cultural diversity, digitalization, students' moral character, capacity for scientific thinking, and religious tolerance.

Primary data is obtained from the results of surveys and direct observations of middle school students in junior high schools of Yamisa Boarding School. The secondary data is referring to references to previous research, journals, and literature sources that are relevant in this study. Data collection in this study is by survey and observation. The selected population is students in junior high school of Yamisa Boarding School. The sampling technique was purposive sampling, so that the selected sample amounted to 100 students. The data collection procedure is by distributing questionnaires to a predetermined sample. The questionnaire uses a Likert scale of 1-5 for each question.

The data analysis for this inquiry used both descriptive and statistical analysis. Explaining the sampling % results is the first step in a descriptive analysis. In statistical testing, the outer model is assessed using Cronbach alpha, composite reliability, convergent validity, discriminant validity, average variance extracted (AVE), and the t test. The inner model is analyzed using the coefficient of determination test ( $R^2$ ). The analysis process makes use of the structural equation modeling (SEM) program SmartPLS SEM.

## **C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **Findings**

#### **1. Descriptive Analysis**

One of the research procedures that is carried out once all the data needed to perform data collecting has been fully gathered is data analysis. How effectively and precisely analytical techniques are applied determines how accurate study outcomes are. In this study, descriptive analysis of the data was used. To characterize or describe the collected data in order to make generalizations, a quantitative method called descriptive analysis is sometimes employed.

The data and steps that can use descriptive analysis techniques include presenting data in tabular form or cross-tabulation frequency distribution, presenting data in visual forms such as histograms, polygons, and diagrams, calculating measures of central tendency, calculating measures of location, and calculating measures of spread.

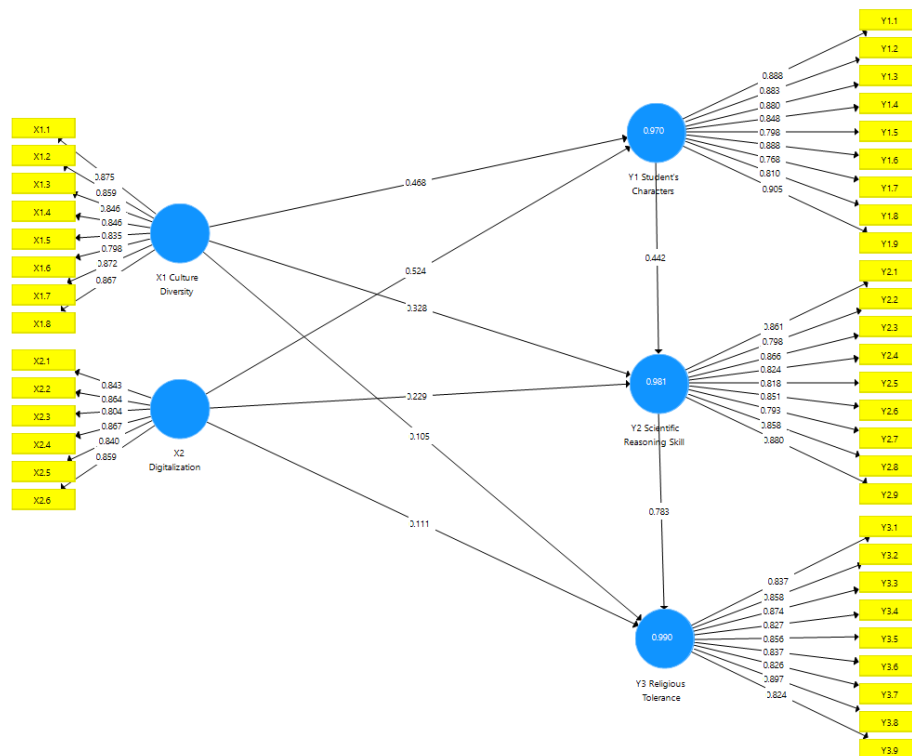


Figure 1. Outer Loading

## 2. Outer Loading

The outer model test's objective is to ascertain the relationship between latent variables and their markers. This outer model test makes use of the PLS Algorithm procedure. Tests for validity and reliability are used to evaluate the outer model's analysis phase.

Tabel 1. Outer Loading

	X1 Culture Diversity	X2 Digitalization	Y1 Student's Characters	Y2 Scientific Reasoning Skill	Y3 Religious Tolerance
X1.2	0,859				
X1.3	0,846				
X1.4	0,846				
X1.5	0,835				
X1.6	0,798				
X1.7	0,872				
X1.8	0,867				
X2.1		0,843			
X2.2		0,864			
X2.3		0,804			
X2.4		0,867			
X2.5		0,840			
X2.6		0,859			
Y1.1			0,888		

Y1.2	0,883	
Y1.3	0,880	
Y1.4	0,848	
Y1.5	0,798	
Y1.6	0,888	
Y1.7	0,768	
Y1.8	0,810	
Y1.9	0,905	
Y2.1		0,861
Y2.2		0,798
Y2.3		0,866
Y2.4		0,824
Y2.5		0,818
Y2.6		0,851
Y2.7		0,793
Y2.8		0,858
Y2.9		0,880
Y3.1		0,837
Y3.2		0,858
Y3.3		0,874
Y3.4		0,827
Y3.5		0,856
Y3.6		0,837
Y3.7		0,826
Y3.8		0,897
Y3.9		0,824
X1.1	0,875	

The degree of correlation between indicators and latent variables is displayed in an outer loading table, which is made up of loading factors. If a loading factor's value is more than 0.7, it is considered valid. The PLS Algorithm Report SmartPLS contains the outer loadings' output. Each variable in this study has a value greater than 0.7, as can be seen in the table above, indicating that the variables have a correlation and are appropriate for use in research and data analysis.

### 3. Construct Reliability and Validity

With the use of the SPSS software, the r-count value (correlated item-total correlations) and the r-table value were compared as part of the validity test in this investigation. The query is considered legitimate if the r-count is more than the r-table value and is positive. A reliability test is performed to ascertain the validity of the measuring tool, which takes the form of a questionnaire. A reliable tool yields results that are largely consistent when utilized frequently. A reliability test is performed to ascertain the validity of the measuring tool, which takes the form of a questionnaire. A reliable tool yields results that are largely consistent when utilized frequently. If the instrument's r (Cronbach's alpha) value is more than 0.60, it is considered dependable,

according to the decision-making criterion. On the other hand, the device is unreliable if the value of  $r$  (Cronbach's alpha) is less than 0.60.

Table 2. Cronbach's Table

	<b>Cronbach's Alpha</b>	<b>rho_A</b>	<b>Composite Reliability</b>	<b>Average Variance Extracted (AVE)</b>
X1 Culture Diversity	0,945	0,946	0,954	0,722
X2 Digitalization	0,921	0,921	0,938	0,716
Y1 Student's Characters	0,953	0,954	0,960	0,728
Y2 Scientific Reasoning Skill	0,947	0,948	0,955	0,704
Y3 Religious Tolerance	0,951	0,952	0,959	0,720

Based on the data test results in the table above, it can be seen that the variables tested are valid, this is because the  $r$ -count >  $r$ -table value and is positive. While the reliability value in the table above is reliable because the  $r$  value (Cronbach's alpha) is greater than 0.60.

#### 4. R-Square

R-Square is a method used to evaluate the collective or joint impact of independent variables on the dependent variable. The results are considered significant if the calculated  $R$  value exceeds the  $R$  table value and has a significance value of less than 0.05 ( $\alpha = 5\%$ ). The R-Square value ranges from 0-1 with a classification closer to 1, the greater the contribution of the independent variable to the dependent variability in the research model.

Table 3. R-Square Table

	<b>R Square</b>	<b>R Square Adjusted</b>
<b>Y1 Student's Characters</b>	0,970	0,969
<b>Y2 Scientific Reasoning Skill</b>	0,981	0,981
<b>Y3 Religious Tolerance</b>	0,990	0,989

Based on the results of data processing in this study, the Students' Characters (Y1) variable on R Square has a value of 0.970 and R Square Adjusted has a value of 0.969 so it can be seen that the tested model is still classified as strong because the value is almost close to 1. The Scientific Reasoning Skill (Y2) has an R Square value of 0.981 and R Square Adjusted 0.981, while the Religious Tolerance (Y3) variable has an R Square value of 0.990 and R Square Adjusted 0.989 so it can be seen that the tested model is classified as strong because it is almost close to 1.

#### 5. Path Coefficient

Hypothesis testing is done by comparing the  $t$ -count with the  $t$ -table of 1.65 (for  $n-2$ ) with a standard error of 5% or a significance value below 0.05 (Hair et al. 2017: 320).

Table 4. Path Coefficient Table

	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (STDEV)	T Statistics ( O/STDEV )	P Values
X1 Culture Diversity -> Y1 Student's Characters	0,468	0,474	0,077	6,072	<b>0,000</b>
X1 Culture Diversity -> Y2 Scientific Reasoning Skill	0,328	0,326	0,074	4,419	<b>0,000</b>
X1 Culture Diversity -> Y3 Religious Tolerance	0,105	0,104	0,053	1,990	<b>0,024</b>
X2 Digitalization -> Y1 Student's Characters	0,524	0,518	0,077	6,789	<b>0,000</b>
X2 Digitalization -> Y2 Scientific Reasoning Skill	0,229	0,230	0,071	3,240	<b>0,001</b>
X2 Digitalization -> Y3 Religious Tolerance	0,111	0,113	0,054	2,073	<b>0,019</b>
Y1 Student's Characters -> Y2 Scientific Reasoning Skill	0,442	0,443	0,073	6,071	<b>0,000</b>
Y2 Scientific Reasoning Skill -> Y3 Religious Tolerance	0,783	0,781	0,060	13,143	<b>0,000</b>

The table above shows the test results using Bootstrapping. Overall, the relationship between the variables tested is significant because it is seen from the t-statistic value above 1.65 for significance  $<0.05$ .

## 6. Specific Indirect Effect

According to Haryono (2016), the purpose of the specific indirect effect is to examine the degree to which exogenous and endogenous variables influence one another.



Table 5. Specific Indirect Table

	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (STDEV)	T Statistics ( O/STDEV )	P Values
X1 Culture Diversity -> Y1 Student's Characters -> Y2 Scientific Reasoning Skill	0,207	0,210	0,052	3,976	<b>0,000</b>
X2 Digitalization - > Y1 Student's Characters -> Y2 Scientific Reasoning Skill	0,232	0,229	0,049	4,768	<b>0,000</b>
X1 Culture Diversity -> Y2 Scientific Reasoning Skill -> Y3 Religious Tolerance	0,256	0,255	0,060	4,274	<b>0,000</b>
X2 Digitalization - > Y2 Scientific Reasoning Skill -> Y3 Religious Tolerance	0,179	0,179	0,056	3,193	<b>0,001</b>
X1 Culture Diversity -> Y1 Student's Characters -> Y2 Scientific Reasoning Skill -> Y3 Religious Tolerance	0,162	0,164	0,041	3,910	<b>0,000</b>
Y1 Student's Characters -> Y2 Scientific Reasoning Skill -> Y3 Religious Tolerance	0,346	0,346	0,066	5,276	<b>0,000</b>
X2 Digitalization - > Y1 Student's Characters ->	0,181	0,179	0,044	4,118	<b>0,000</b>

### **Analysis/Discussion**

#### **1. The Effect of Culture Diversity on Student's Characters**

The results showed that there is a significant influence between culture diversity on student's characters. Studies have shown that cultural competence among students, such as nursing students, is essential for effective interactions in diverse settings (Brown, Dennis, and Matute-Chavarria 2019). Similarly, Islamic education has been highlighted as a significant factor in shaping students' characters, emphasizing values such as tolerance and harmony (Khaidir and Suud 2020). The incorporation of cultural diversity modules in university curricula reflects a growing recognition of the importance of preparing students to navigate diverse social landscapes (Sánchez-Ojeda et al. 2020). The influence of the learning environment on character building has been acknowledged as a significant factor in shaping students' behaviors and attitudes (Sánchez-Ojeda et al. 2020). By fostering a positive learning environment, schools can positively impact the character development of students. Additionally, the implementation of character education through school culture has been identified as a strategy for instilling values in students (Hasnadi 2019). Integrating core ethical values based on national cultural values, as seen in Madrasah education, contributes to the development of honesty and integrity among students (Mubarok, Hasanah, and Arifin 2023).

#### **2. The Effect of Culture Diversity on Scientific Reasoning Skill**

The results showed a significant influence between cultural diversity on scientific reasoning skills. The results of this study are supported by previous findings. The integration of diverse cultural perspectives in scientific endeavors is crucial for promoting inclusivity and improving the quality of research outcomes (Hapgood 2022). Additionally, diversity in scientific research fosters a culture of openness and transparency, promoting accountability and credibility within the scientific community (Hapgood 2022). This inclusive approach not only enriches the research process but also ensures that scientific findings are more representative and applicable across different cultural contexts (Hapgood 2022).

In scientific education and training, the significance of cultural diversity is increasingly acknowledged as a fundamental aspect of preparing future professionals to tackle global challenges (Jacobsen et al. 2021). Programs focusing on global health, for instance, emphasize the development of culturally competent professionals capable of addressing health disparities in a globalized world (Jacobsen et al. 2021). By integrating cultural diversity into public health education, students are equipped with the necessary skills to navigate diverse cultural landscapes and effectively engage with communities worldwide (Jacobsen et al. 2021).

#### **3. The Effect of Culture Diversity on Religious Tolerance**

The results showed a significant influence between cultural diversity on religious tolerance. The results of this study are supported by previous findings. Cultural diversity

plays a significant role in shaping religious tolerance by fostering interactions among individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds, creating opportunities to understand and appreciate different religious beliefs and practices (Abdul Mutalib and Mohd Ramly 2023). Exposure to various religious traditions and values can help reduce prejudice and stereotypes, enhance empathy, and strengthen social bonds (Abdul Mutalib and Mohd Ramly 2023).

Interfaith engagement is essential for promoting understanding and cooperation among different religious groups, contributing to humanity and fostering peaceful coexistence (Khan et al. 2020). By engaging in interfaith dialogues, individuals can explore their religious backgrounds and contribute to broader discussions that transcend religious boundaries (Khan et al. 2020). Such engagements can serve as models for mitigating interreligious conflicts and promoting harmony in diverse faith communities (Sutrisno 2019). In the context of Indonesia, a diverse country with various ethnicities and religions, promoting tolerance and understanding of differences is crucial in educational institutions to cultivate a culture of respect and acceptance.

#### **4. The Effect of Digitalization on Student's Characters**

The findings demonstrated that students' characteristics were significantly impacted by digitalization. Previous research provides support for the study's conclusions. Higher education instructors face a technological problem related to how they view ICT tools and how important they are for developing vital skills like teamwork, communication, and critical thinking (Liesa-Orús et al. 2020). Higher education institutions may improve instruction and equip students for success in the digital age by tackling these issues and embracing digital transformation (Alenezi 2021). In the realm of vocational education, digital literacy has become a fundamental requirement for the modern workforce, with digital technologies widely adopted across various industries (Jia and Huang 2023). Teachers are crucial in helping pupils acquire the digital skills they will need for their future employment (Jia and Huang 2023). But the moral dilemmas raised by educational AI emphasize how crucial it is to think through the moral ramifications of utilizing AI in the classroom (Chen 2024).

#### **5. Effect of Digitalization on Scientific Reasoning Skill**

The results showed a significant influence between digitalization on scientific reasoning skills. The results of this study are supported by previous findings. The impact of various teaching models and approaches on students' scientific reasoning skills is a crucial aspect of education. Training students in scientific reasoning is essential as high scientific reasoning skills influence students in decision-making and problem-solving (Mandella, Suhendar, and Setiono 2020). Scientific reasoning is a skill that educators should emphasize to prepare students for success in the digital age (Swari and Sujana 2023). Additionally, the use of different learning methodologies can enhance students' abilities to think critically and engage effectively in scientific inquiry (Wulandari, Supeno, and Diah Wahyuni 2024). Strategies such as incorporating creative media like illustrated stories with Pancasila values can significantly improve students' reading skills (Wulandari, Supeno, and Diah Wahyuni 2024).

## **6. The Effect of Digitalization on Religious Tolerance**

The results showed a significant effect of digitalization on religious tolerance. The results of this study are supported by previous findings. The role of digital technologies in education, particularly in higher education settings, has been recognized as a transformative tool for promoting learning and innovation (Okoye et al. 2023). Countries investing in digital technologies have leveraged them for teaching and learning purposes, leading to educational advancements and the enhancement of critical skills necessary for navigating the digital landscape (Okoye et al. 2023). This underscores the potential of digital tools in fostering religious literacy and promoting interfaith dialogue within academic contexts. Furthermore, the evolution of evangelism and religious moderation in the digital era has been a subject of scholarly inquiry (Pancarani, 2024). Studies have aimed to understand the ethical implications of digital evangelism, explore the dynamics of Christianization in multicultural contexts, and analyze the role of religious moderation as a bridge for interfaith dialogue (Pancarani 2024). These investigations shed light on the complex interplay between digitalization, religious practices, and efforts towards fostering tolerance and understanding among different religious communities (Pancarani 2024)

## **7. The Effect of Student's Characters on Scientific Reasoning Skill**

The outcomes demonstrated how much a student's character affects their capacity for scientific reasoning. Previous research provides support for the study's conclusions. The influence of religious education on students' character development has also been investigated, especially in the context of Christian teachings (Gulo et al. 2022). Although the impact of Christian religious education on character development has been studied, further investigation is required to fully grasp the implications of this educational approach on students' dispositions and actions (Gulo et al. 2022). Religious instruction can be incorporated into character development programs to give pupils moral direction and ethical frameworks that support their overall development. It has been demonstrated that using online resources like Edmodo and Problem-Based Learning (PBL) in mathematics teaching improves students' critical thinking abilities (Fiqriah, Warsono, and Toto 2022). These innovative teaching methods not only stimulate students' problem-solving abilities but also foster collaborative learning environments that encourage active participation and engagement (Fiqriah, Warsono, and Toto 2022).

## **8. The Effect of Scientific Reasoning Skill on Religious Tolerance**

The results showed a significant effect of digitalization on religious tolerance. The results of this study are supported by previous findings. Scientific reasoning plays a crucial role in shaping individuals' attitudes towards religious tolerance. By engaging in critical analysis, evidence evaluation, and rational thinking, individuals with strong scientific reasoning skills can effectively combat prejudices and stereotypes associated with religious beliefs (Syafieh and Anzhaikan 2023). This approach allows individuals to navigate the complexities and diversities of religions, appreciating the rational foundations behind various beliefs, which, in turn, fosters inclusivity and respect for differences (Syafieh and Anzhaikan 2023). In the Indonesian context, where religious diversity is prevalent, efforts to strengthen religious tolerance often draw from Islamic teachings (Idris, Willya, and Mokodenseho 2024). Islamic perspectives on tolerance,

challenges to religious harmony, and strategies for promoting interfaith understanding are highlighted as key themes in fostering a culture of tolerance and respect for different beliefs.

#### **D. CONCLUSION**

Culture diversity significantly impacts various aspects of students' development, including their characters, scientific reasoning skills, and religious tolerance. Studies consistently highlight the positive influence of cultural competence on character formation among students in diverse educational contexts. For instance, nursing and Islamic education emphasize cultural understanding as pivotal for effective interactions and ethical development. Integrating cultural diversity modules in university curricula not only prepares students to navigate diverse social landscapes but also fosters a conducive learning environment that shapes positive behaviors and attitudes. Moreover, cultural diversity enriches scientific reasoning by promoting inclusivity in research methodologies and perspectives. Embracing diverse viewpoints enhances the quality and reliability of scientific outcomes, ensuring broader applicability across different cultural contexts. In scientific education, exposure to diverse perspectives cultivates skills necessary for addressing global challenges, emphasizing the role of cultural competence in fostering a more comprehensive understanding of complex phenomena. Additionally, cultural diversity significantly contributes to religious tolerance by fostering interfaith dialogue and understanding. Exposure to diverse religious beliefs reduces prejudice and stereotypes, promoting empathy and social cohesion. In educational settings, initiatives promoting tolerance and respect for religious differences are crucial for cultivating inclusive environments that nurture mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence among students. In conclusion, cultural diversity plays a fundamental role in shaping students' characters, enhancing their scientific reasoning skills, and promoting religious tolerance. Educational institutions and policymakers alike should prioritize integrating cultural competence into curricula to prepare students effectively for a globalized world characterized by diversity and interconnectedness.

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